



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: August 8, 2016**

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**Veterans to Participate in Local Creative Arts Festival**

Veterans will show off their artistic talents through Recreation Therapy's summer Creative Arts Festival on Thursday, August 11, 2016. The festival kicks-off at VA WNY Healthcare System, 3495 Bailey Avenue from 11am to 2pm in Room 301, Freedom Hall.

VA medical facilities compete across the nation and incorporate local creative arts productions into their respective Recreation Therapy programs. This annual competition recognizes Veteran progress and personal recovery made through recreation therapy, and raises the visibility of the creative achievements of our nation's Veterans after disease, disability or life crisis. The competition includes 51 categories in the visual arts division such as oil painting and leatherwork, and 100 performing arts categories to include music, drama, dance, comedy, and creative writing. Through a national judging process, first, second and third place entries in each category are determined.

Winners in each of the categories of the local recreation therapy programs will go on to the 2016 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival level of competition to be held in Jackson, Mississippi, from October 10-17. VA Western New York Healthcare System is proud to announce that Buffalo will host the next National Creative Arts Festival in October of 2017.

For more information on VA Recreation Therapy programs, please call Pam Kaznowski at 716-862-6818.

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