



**VA Health Care Upstate New York  
VA Western New York Healthcare System**  
3495 Bailey Avenue | Buffalo, NY 14215  
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[www.buffalo.va.gov](http://www.buffalo.va.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: February 7, 2013**

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**VA Western New York Healthcare System Hosts Veterans Creative Arts Festival**

Nationwide, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical facilities use the creative arts as one form of rehabilitative treatment to help Veterans recover from and cope with physical and emotional disabilities. Across the country each year, veterans treated at VA medical centers compete in local creative arts contests. This competition includes 53 art categories, ranging from oil painting to leatherwork to paint-by-number kits. In addition, there are 120 categories pertaining to all aspects of music, dance, drama and creative writing. The creative writing division is a more recent addition to the competition and includes original works in poetry, essay, short story, and personal experience writing.

VA Western New York Healthcare System's Buffalo site, 3495 Bailey Avenue, will host the local Veterans Creative Arts Festival on Tuesday, February 12 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Freedom Hall (Room 301). The public is invited to attend the local festival and enjoy a wide variety of creative art forms displayed by local Veterans, including poetry, music and art. Local winning entries will be submitted to the national selection committee which chooses first, second and third place winners among all of the entries. Select winners are invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival each year.

In 2012, 3,725 Veterans from 130 VA facilities entered the competition nationwide, with 150 of the medal-winning earning an invitation to participate. The 2013 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival will take place October 21-27 in Reno, Nevada, hosted by VA Sierra Nevada Health Care System.

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