



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:
Deb Eiring, Public Affairs Specialist
605.745.2031 (Daytime)
605.890.2758 (Cell)

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2010

VA Invites Veterans to Exercise their Creativity

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Black Hills Health Care System is hosting a Veterans Creative Arts show in early March to jury entries for the 2010 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Veterans enrolled in VA Black Hills who are interested in entering the competition are invited to submit their entries to the Fort Meade or Hot Springs VA Medical Center's Recreation Therapy department. Fort Meade entries must be received by February 12 and Hot Springs entries by March 9, and there is a limit of two pieces per artist.

This year's National Veterans Creative Arts Festival (NVCAF) will be held October 18-25 in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

Veterans are invited to submit entries in the following categories: Fine Arts; Applied Arts; Crafts and Performing Arts (music, instrumental, drama and dance); and Creative Writing. The wide range of art categories included in the Festival often surprises Veterans. Veterans may submit entries in acrylic, oil or watercolor paintings, sculpture, woodworking, metalwork, jewelry and a host of other categories. There are also special art categories for the Vietnam Experience, Digital Photography/Art and Special Recognition; the latter recognizes the physical and/or mental health challenges the Veteran overcame in order to accomplish the creation of his/her art.

We are encouraging any and all local area Veterans to learn more about this wonderful opportunity. It is truly a rewarding, enriching and - for many - a healing experience.

Interested Veterans should call Mike Ellis, Recreation Therapist, (605) 347-2511, Ext. 7658; Kyle Doerges, Occupational Therapist, (605) 347-2511, Ext. 7582 at the Fort Meade VA Medical Center, or Ron Foster, Recreation Therapist at the Hot Springs VA Medical Center, (605) 745-2000, Ext. 92924, for category information and show details. Anyone interested in learning more about VA's creative arts program may also visit the Festival's web site at www.creativeartsfestival.org.

#