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## **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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February 25, 2015

### **Veterans' talents on display at annual Veterans Creative Arts Festival**

*Artwork, musical performances highlight celebration of creative and expressive arts*

NORTH CHICAGO, Ill. –Veteran musicians and artists from northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin will share their talents in a show and on the stage at the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Creative Arts Festival at the Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center Feb. 26.

Categories this year include writing and poetry, music and applied/fine art such as painting, drawing, sculpture and photography; as well as art kit categories such as “paint-by-number.” A special category is “Military Combat Experience,” for Veterans who overcome physical or mental health challenges to create pieces related to their combat experience.

Participating Veterans were required to be enrolled at a Department of Veterans Affairs medical facility or outpatient clinic. First place winners have the opportunity to compete in the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival this fall. More information about the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival can be found online at [www.va.gov/opa/speceven/caf](http://www.va.gov/opa/speceven/caf).

**WHAT:** *Lovell FHCC Annual Veterans Creative Arts Festival*

**WHEN:** *Art show begins at 11 a.m.; Performances begin at 1 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 26*

**WHERE:** *Building 4, Bourke Hall, Captain James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center (3001 Green Bay Road, North Chicago, Ill.) Parking is available in Parking Lot T.*

**HOW:** *The event is open to the public. Media are asked to please R.S.V.P. by 9 a.m., Feb. 26, for security/parking by calling 224-610-3714, or emailing confirmation to [Jayna.legg@va.gov](mailto:Jayna.legg@va.gov).*

***Please see photos and captions below.***

**About the Lovell FHCC:** The Lovell FHCC was established Oct. 1, 2010, as the nation’s only fully integrated Department of Veterans Affairs/Department of Defense federal health care center. The center has a dual mission of caring for Veterans and ensuring the medical and dental readiness of U.S. Navy recruits and Sailors serving in the region. Lovell FHCC, which is located in North Chicago, operates four Great Lakes Naval Station clinics and three community based outpatient clinics in McHenry and Evanston, Ill. and Kenosha, Wis. The facility also serves military families and military retirees.



Veteran Anthony Sarpy rehearses his musical selection during dress rehearsals for the Lovell FHCC 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Creative Arts Festival. (Photo by Mary Waterman, Lovell FHCC Communications)



Tricia Stewart, Lovell FHCC recreation therapist and organizer of the festival, directs entrant Michael Richardson as he practices his music selection. (Photo by Mary Waterman, Lovell FHCC Communications)



Viet Nam Images 1967 by Anthony R. Stetina, PFC Artillery Survey (Photo by Mary Waterman, Lovell FHCC Communications)



Painting  
Panic Terror and Excitement by Richard Simmons, AXCS USN Retired (Photo by Mary Waterman, Lovell FHCC Communications)