



Thursday, October 25, 2007

## The Light in His Eyes Will Keep Shining A Tribute to Ernest Caballero



Ernest Caballero

Army veterans Ernest (Ernie) Caballero, 57, and Rodolfo (Rudy) Camacho, 44, had both received treatment at the VA facility in Martinez, Calif., and were both single leg amputees. It was this commonality that inspired the two men as they pondered entering the 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Darlyn Phillips, a recreation therapist at the Martinez center, encouraged both veterans at separate times to submit an entry. Both men had expressed an interest in doing what they could to serve as an inspiration to fellow veterans who were facing similar physical challenges. Without a firm entry as the deadline grew closer, Phillips asked each to consider performing a dance.

When the two men met, they instantly found they had a lot in common. They talked about making their presentation reflect the strength and determination needed to overcome and to be an inspiration to others.

According to Phillips, "Both of these gentlemen are a bit shy and very traditional in their Native American and Mexican spirit. But the lines of communication quickly opened as they began to talk together about their experiences. Both had expressed the anguish over having to give up their independence and being the strong force that was their past."

They chose the song, "Walkin' to New Orleans," as a dedication to their brothers and sisters surviving Hurricane Katrina, with its message intended to keep the spirit of determination strong. The entry took first place in the special recognition category for the dance division, and very clearly demonstrates the concept of ability winning over adversity. With two "good" legs and two prostheses between them, Caballero and Camacho set out to demonstrate their steadfast determination to persevere and overcome.

Caballero, an Army veteran, began dancing many years ago. Since he now had a prosthetic leg and foot, he was able to return to dancing after a one-year period of rehabilitation after the amputation. For Camacho, an Army veteran, his dancing "career" began in the recreation therapy department at the Martinez clinic. Both veterans were elated when they heard they had won a gold medal in the competition and were invited to attend this week's event in St. Louis.

Then, the unthinkable happened. At the end of September, Ernie Caballero died suddenly. When told of Ernie's passing, Camacho thought, "How could that happen?" His fellow comrade was gone in just an instant, and their dream of performing as a team at the Festival was over. Later, Camacho talked with Phillips about the closeness they had shared and how things like this sometimes happen in the service, losing a fellow soldier. Camacho is attending the Festival this week and will perform the duo's dance in Sunday's show, with Phillips dancing Caballero's part. Both are extremely proud to represent this talented veteran at the Festival, with Camacho saying, "He would have done it for me."



Rudy Camacho from Martinez, Calif., poses with partner/recreation therapist Darlyn Phillips following rehearsals.

"Ernie was that light in everyone's eyes as he talked about the upcoming event," Phillips said. "He had taken pictures and videos of their rehearsals, which his family still holds dearly. There is a stillness now at the Martinez clinic when we speak of Ernie, but a surge of pride that Rudy and I will be able to honor Ernie along with everyone else at the event. I am honored and feel unworthy to be on the stage with Rudy, but we are performing honor to a fellow comrade."

When Phillips and Camacho take the stage at the end of the show on Sunday, there is no doubt that Ernie Caballero will be there too – watching somewhere from the wings and smiling.



## Print Making - a Unique and Exciting Art Form

Print making is being offered this morning as the second artist workshop of this year's Festival. In the world of print making there are four main types.

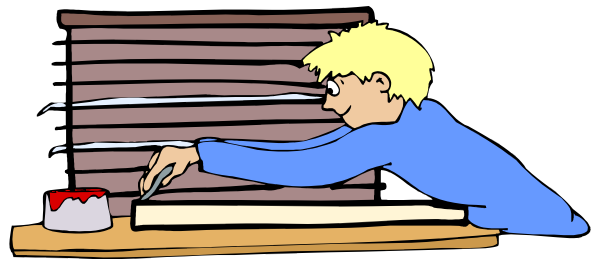
**Relief Printing** – this printing is done from a raised surface such as a rubber stamp onto a surface.

**Intaglio** – this is made by cutting the picture into the surface of the printing plate.

**Planography** – often referred to as lithography, this is done as the printing of a flat surface. Essentially, you paint from a flat stone by a special method.

**Stencil or Serigraphy** – this uses a plastic or metal piece that is cut into shapes or designs. The ink goes through the design onto the surface you are stenciling or printing on.

Today, following your tour of the St. Louis Art Museum, you will be learning a type of intaglio printmaking – the dry point method of printing – and creating your own intaglio print using an etching press. Enjoy!

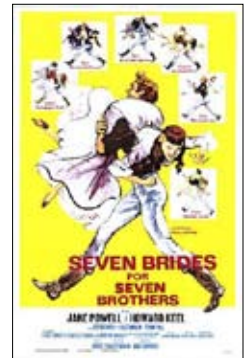


## JANE POWELL - Mistress of Ceremonies



There are many special moments for veterans attending the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Meeting Jane Powell, star of Hollywood's golden era and the Festival's stage show Mistress of Ceremonies, has to be one. Better yet, is sharing the stage and actually working with this famous star of radio, movies, Broadway and television. This year marks Powell's ninth time serving as mistress of ceremonies for the Creative Arts Festival.

Jane Powell is known for her celebrity, but is also remembered for her kindness and professionalism. She will be available for photos on Friday, October 26 from 10 - 11:30 a.m. in the Renaissance Ballroom on the 12th Floor.



“Jane’s interest and concern for veterans has always been apparent. She lends a sparkling star quality to the Festival event that makes the experience for all even more special,” said Liz Mackey, national director of the Festival. “We’re so pleased that she enthusiastically lends her time and talents toward the success of the Festival.”

Jane Powell came to Hollywood at the age of 14 from Portland, Oregon, where she had her own radio shows. She starred in 20 major MGM musicals, and many of the songs she introduced became standards. In 1959, Jane starred in the TV version of “Meet Me in St. Louis” with Tab Hunter and Myrna Loy. She has starred in every entertainment medium, written an autobiography, produced an exercise video, and appeared on the lecture circuit.

She lives in Connecticut with her husband, Dick Moore, and enjoys gardening and cooking. Jane Powell has served as Mistress of Ceremonies of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival in 1991, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006 and once again this year. Welcome back, Jane!





## The Louisiana Purchase Makes its Mark on Missouri and the Nation

In 1803, the largest and swiftest act of American transformation was made. The Louisiana Purchase expanded the entire nation, reshaping it from sea to sea. It not only transformed the nation's geography, but also its politics and its primary culture. Doubling the size of the nation, the Louisiana Purchase brought with it new lifestyles, new citizens and vast natural resources.

As word of the purchase crossed America, it transformed the struggle over slavery, the nature of relations between European Americans and Native Americans, their cultures and ethnicity, and the scope and complexity of the economy.

Here are just a few effects the Louisiana Purchase had on Missourians:

- \* The Upper Louisiana Territory, later the Missouri Territory, gave birth to 11 states.
- \* The settlement of the Upper Louisiana Territory altered the debate over slavery and the relations between the United States and Native American nations.
- \* The Missouri Compromise and the Dred Scott trial, held in St. Louis, emerged from the Louisiana Purchase



chase and, ultimately, played roles in the American Civil War.

- \* Missouri continues to be at the center of events shaping the emergence of a multicultural United States.
- \* Missouri – the starting point for the Lewis & Clark Expedition and the traditional “Gateway to the West” for settlers – is an appropriate place for us to commemorate the purchase.
- \* On March 9-10, 1804, the United States took possession of Upper Louisiana at St. Louis (on a spot now part of the Gateway Arch grounds).
- \* The land included in the purchase comprises around 23 percent of the territory of the modern United States. Now that's one major acquisition!

## The St. Louis Art Museum and Print Making

SAINT LOUIS ART MUSEUM

9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.



The Saint Louis Art Museum is one of the nation's leading comprehensive art museums, containing more than 30,000 works of art. Areas of notable depth include Oceanic art, pre-

Columbian art, ancient Chinese bronzes, and European and American art of the late 19th and 20th centuries, with particular strength in 20th century German painting. Artists will have the opportunity to learn the dry point method of printing and create their own intaglio print using an etching press. Participants will be inspired by more than 25 drawings and engravings on view in a special exhibition, George Caleb Bingham: The making of “The County Election.”

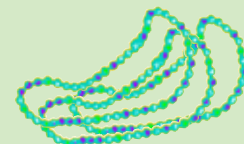
## Don't Worry, Bead Happy!

Local Festival staff have an exciting opportunity for performers and artists who attend the *bead-tastic* events during this year's Festival. Participants who attend an outing will receive a string of beads. Artists will have the opportunity to earn seven sets of beads; while performers will have the opportunity to earn three sets. On Saturday night, performers and artists who attend all of their events will be entered into a drawing for some *bead-utiful* prizes! Participants must be wearing their beads during the Saturday night festivities to win, and are encouraged to wear them throughout the week.

*Bead-eriffic* outings are:

- Botanical Gardens (artists only)
- City Museum (artists only)
- The Arch (artists and performers)
- St. Louis Art Museum (artists only)
- St. Louis Mills Mall (artists only)
- Ice Cream Social (artists and performers)
- St. Louis History Museum (artists and performers)

Come out and see St. Louis. The outings may lead to some great prizes. BEAD THERE OR BEAD SQUARE!



# Thank You, Presenters!

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) and Help Hospitalized Veterans (HHV) are the three co-presenters of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. All three share a strong commitment to America's veterans, dedicated to promoting creative art therapy for veterans' health, rehabilitation and recovery.



VA has supported art and music therapy programs in its facilities for more than 20 years, recognizing how this event demonstrates to the American public the multi-talented face of the American veteran. "This event showcases the hard work of veterans and the positive impact of the creative arts in the lives of those who served in uniform," said Gordon H. Mansfield, Acting Secretary of Veterans Affairs. "The determination and grace shown by these participants is a testament to their character and spirit."

Therapists at VA medical centers throughout the country are tireless in their support and encouragement to veterans participating each year in the national Festival, as well as the local competitions preceding it. A number of them are also present during the week, volunteering in advisory roles and serving as national committee members and team leaders. Many other VA employees and volunteers are also at the event this week, working in diverse areas to help ensure a successful experience for the participants.

Of course VA could not support an event of this size and caliber alone. Both of the other two co-presenters, ALA and HHV, support this event with equal generosity and energy.

The 2007 Festival marks the American Legion Auxiliary's seventh year helping present the event. Always bringing countless dedicated volunteers who help with so many of the event logistics and day-to-day operations, many ALA volunteers are working here in St. Louis in areas like the costume room, assisting with meals and trips, and providing a warm welcome in the hospitality room. Several of ALA's state departments have come on board as bronze, silver and gold medal sponsors. The organization also contributes immensely to the competition phase of the program by donating funds, materials and supplies, as well as judging some of the local competitions.



"The Festival is one of the highlights of our year," said Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, ALA National President. "We are privileged to share and support this wonderful event both locally and nationally. We are well aware of the positive outcomes of the veterans' participation, both in the performing and the visual arts."

HHV's support of veterans has existed since 1970 when its founder, Roger Chapin, fulfilled the need of hospitalized

Vietnam veterans with a creative outlet. Since 1970, HHV has distributed more than 20 million craft kits to VA medical centers across the country. This year marks HHV's 14th year of steadfast commitment to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. In addition to sending craft care specialists to the program, HHV also hosts an annual craft kit workshop during the week that is always an extremely popular one among the participants. (HHV's 2007 craft workshop is scheduled for tomorrow from 9 – 11:30 a.m. in the Penthouse Ballroom on the 12th floor of the hotel. Don't miss it!)



"The Board of Directors of HHV is again thrilled and privileged to co-present the Festival with ALA and VA," said Mike Lynch, HHV's Executive Director. "HHV wishes to congratulate all veterans who entered into this national competition, for they have shared their fantastic performing and visual arts abilities with America."

Thank you to all of our co-presenters – for supporting our veteran performers and artists and helping them learn, grow, heal, create – and put on a show!

## Ice Cream Social with a Twist

Please join us in the Renaissance Ballroom on the 12th floor Thursday evening at 8:30 p.m. for an ice cream social with a St. Louis flair. We will be serving world famous Ted Drewes Custard. You just can't come to St. Louis without experiencing Ted Drewes.

Ted Drewes opened their first custard stand right here on Natural Bridge Road in 1930. Since then, their custard has become legendary and they have had many offers over the years to franchise. The owner, Ted Drewes Jr., says that will never happen. "It is a matter of quality," he said. "Franchising could lead to mediocrity." The Festival social will also offer homemade chocolate and berry toppings by Sandy Marsh.



While you enjoy your custard, sit back and enjoy some good old fashioned square dancing. Dennis Mineau will be our line dance caller for the evening. He's been calling square dances for 43 years, and says that square dancing "has been a family tradition for generations."

Those of you who aren't familiar with square dancing may be interested to know that there is no script; when movements are being called the dancers have no idea what figure will come next. The dancers tonight are from the West County Spinners and the Singles & Doubles.



Festival Music Director Bill Hayworth speaks with the performers during rehearsals.



PHOTOS FROM THE FESTIVAL



The Festival's artists on the bus to tour the City Museum on Wednesday morning.



David and Lou Wilson, "David and Dad," practice their guitars. David is from Seymour, Tenn., and Lou lives in Richmond, Va.



Sandra Burkey from Renton, Wash., displays her latchhook artwork.



Al Sciacegna from Fresno, Calif., shares his winning solo.



Saddlemaker David Blair, from Lemoore, Calif., poses with his gold medal entry.



## Tips and Advice to Help You Achieve Writing Success

A creative writing workshop takes place this evening beginning at 7 p.m. in the Landus Room. Here are some tips to consider for successful writing.



**1. Write.** Sounds obvious, but if you want to be successful you need to write. That means turning off the television and avoiding other time wasting activities.

**2. Read.** To write better, you must read. Stephen King recommends at least three hours per day. Before bed, at the doctor's office, or on the train, try to have a book in hand. While your reading list should

primarily be in the genre you write, not all of it needs to be — other genres and styles will broaden your writing skills.

**3. Get Feedback.** Feedback is like oxygen. Without it, your effort is bound to fail. Should you write an entire book without finding out if it is any good? Only if you want to waste your time.

**4. Get some good writing books.** A few good ones can give you insight into writing and help you shape your ideas into a compelling novel.

**5. Read the newspaper and learn about the world.** Be sure you know what is happening and what the hot topics are. Your subconscious will help you incorporate them into your novel.

**6. Set specific goals for yourself.** What is your writing goal? Are you writing just for fun? Do you want to be

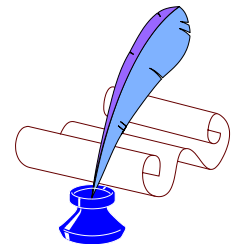
published? Make sure you understand your reasons for writing and then tailor your writing schedule to those goals.

**7. Learn grammar!** You can't be a successful writer if you don't have command over the language you are writing in. If you don't understand grammar, then get a grammar book or take a class. No editor is going to clean up after you. They'll expect you to know your commas, semi-colons and apostrophes.

**8. Back up your writing.** There is nothing that will kill a writing career faster than having your manuscript lost when your computer fails. Back up your work, secure your computer, install virus software and make copies.

**9. Exercise, eat well, and get at least seven hours of sleep.** Writing a best-seller takes a lot of stamina. If you want to keep the pages flowing, make sure your body and mind are balanced and that you feel well. Get plenty of sleep. A lack of sleep can be a writer's biggest downfall.

**10. Have fun.** If you're not enjoying the writing on some level then don't expect the reader to enjoy reading it. When you have fun writing something, it shows!



## Creative Writing Sessions

**7 - 8:30 p.m. Penthouse Ballroom, 12th floor**

We are excited to offer creative writing workshops this year! We are fortunate to have two instructors with us to lead this workshop. You will first experience memoir writing, which after some instruction each artist will complete a freewriting exercise. Then the focus will shift to poetry, where each artist will receive instruction and finish in a haiku exercise. This workshop will reach each artists at his or her individual level, and leave each attendee feeling empowered.



Participants may have their Veterans History Project (VHP) interviews recorded today from 8 a.m. – noon and from 1 – 5 p.m. Interviews conclude on Friday. Any veteran who wishes to record an interview, which will be sent to the Library of Congress, should do it soon! Remember, this historic project honors America's veterans by creating a lasting legacy of their military experience. Regardless of branch or period of service, age, military career or experience, all veterans are invited to share it with our VHP program staff and help make history! Please go to the VHP interview room (in the Gateway Room on the first floor of the hotel). Veterans who are volunteers or employees are welcome to sign up as well. Thanks to all the veterans who have already participated. Hours remain as listed through Friday.

# A or Y our I nfo

## Hospitality

The hospitality room volunteers are ready to welcome you with warm smiles and a variety of snacks and refreshments. All hospitality room locations are on the 12th floor of the hotel.

Location	Day	Hours
Renaissance Ballroom	Thursday	9 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Renaissance Ballroom	Friday	9 a.m. - Midnight
Renaissance Ballroom	Saturday	9 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Boardroom	Sunday	10 a.m. - Noon

## Medical Suite

The Medical Suite is located Lindbergh A & B on the first floor of the Renaissance St. Louis Hotel.

Hours of Operation: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Medical Suite phone number inside the Renaissance Hotel: extensions 4025/4026

Outside of the Renaissance Hotel: (314) 450-0299

After 10 p.m., call (314) 450-0299 for emergencies.

Participants, please inform your team leader of any medical concerns, so your team leader can help you contact the Medical Room. Medical personnel will be wearing red T-shirts and will accompany veterans and support personnel on all trips away from the hotel.



**Rain**

**High 58°**

**Low 48°**

## INTERNET CAFE

HP (Hewlett Packard) is running an Internet café for your use during the week of the Festival.

Hours of operation today through Saturday, October 27:  
 7 - 8:30 a.m.  
 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
 7 - 9 p.m. (except for Saturday)

It is located in the Truman Room on the main floor of the hotel.



**Meals will be served in Grand Ballrooms C&D unless otherwise designated.**

**Breakfast: 7 - 8:30 a.m.**

**Lunch: Noon - 2 p.m.**

**Dinner: 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.**

### Breakfast

- Sliced Fresh Seasonal Fruits
- Muffins and Bagels with Cream Cheese
- Egg and Cheese Croissant
- Maple Sausage Links, Hash Brown Potatoes
- Cheese Grits, Dry Cereal
- Chilled Assorted Juices, Coffee, Hot Tea

### Lunch

- Garden Salad with Choice of Ranch or Northern Italian Dressing
- Sliced Pepper Crusted Sirloin of Beef
- Lemon Dill Baked Cod, Red Bliss Potatoes
- Chef's Selection of Oven Roasted Vegetables
- Fresh Artisan Breads, Cherry Pie
- Iced Tea, Lemonade, Coffee, Hot Tea

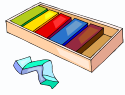
### Dinner

- Martinated Vegetable Salad
- BBQ Pork Loin, BBQ Brisket
- Vegetarian Option, Baked Beans
- Corn on the Cob, Assorted Rolls
- Potato Salad, French Silk Pie
- Iced Tea, Coffee, Hot Tea

### 2007 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival October Birthdays



Carla Reneé	October 1
Allen Eckman	October 5
Marvin Hooper	October 10
Arman Barajas	October 11
Gaylen Young	October 11
Linda Ysewyn	October 14



# Artists



# Performers



## Thursday, October 25, 2007

7 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at hotel — Grand Ballrooms C&D  
 7:45 a.m. Team leaders meet with Katy Ryan  
 — Ladue, 1st Floor  
 8 a.m. Team leaders meet with artists  
 8:15 a.m. Board buses for tour  
 — St. Louis Art Museum  
 8:30 a.m. Depart for tour  
 9 a.m. Tour and Workshop #2 (Print Making)  
 at St. Louis Art Museum  
 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. Hospitality Room Open  
 — Renaissance Ballroom, 12th Floor  
 12:30 p.m. Board buses and return to hotel  
 1 p.m. Lunch at hotel — Grand Ballrooms C&D  
 2 p.m. Shopping trip to St. Louis Mills Mall  
 2 – 5 p.m. Massage Therapy Sessions  
 — Pre-Function Area, 1st Floor  
 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. Dinner at hotel — Grand Ballrooms C&D  
 7 – 8:30 p.m. Creative Writing Workshop I (for novices)  
 — Ladue Room, 1st Floor  
 Creative Writing Workshop II (for more  
 experienced writers)  
 — Penthouse Ballroom, 12th Floor  
 8:30 – 11 p.m. Square Dancing and Ice Cream Social  
 — Grand Ballroom A&B

7 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at hotel — Grand Ballrooms C&D  
 8 a.m. Team leaders meet with Amy Kimbler  
 — Gatwick A&B  
 8:30 a.m. Team leaders meet with performers  
 9 a.m. – 11 p.m. Hospitality Room Open  
 — Renaissance Ballroom, 12th Floor  
 9 – Noon Complete run-thru in show order,  
 including chorus numbers, stopping to fix  
 problems, we will get as far through the  
 show as we can - ALL VETERANS NEEDED  
 — Grand Ballrooms A&B  
 Continue fitting for chorus member vests  
 and other acts — Heathrow B  
 Noon Lunch at hotel — Grand Ballrooms C&D  
 1 – 2:30 p.m. Chorus Number rehearsal with music  
 director  
 — Grand Ballrooms A&B  
 2 – 5 p.m. Massage Therapy Sessions  
 — Pre-Function, 1st Floor  
 2:45 – 5 p.m. Run-thru in show order: No stopping  
 — Grand Ballrooms A&B  
 5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Dinner at hotel — Grand Ballrooms C&D  
 7 – 8:30 p.m. Creative Writing Workshop I (for novices)  
 — Ladue Room, 1st Floor  
 Creative Writing Workshop II (for more  
 experienced writers)  
 — Penthouse Ballroom, 12th Floor  
 8:30 – 11 p.m. Square Dancing and Ice Cream Social  
 — Grand Ballroom A&B

Please check with your team leader or the posted schedule outside of Grand Ballrooms A & B for any changes or updates to your daily schedule.

**INVCAT Web site**  
[www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov](http://www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov)

ArtsGram, read your news release and see photos from the week. The address is easy: [www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov](http://www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov).