

Hosted  
by the VA  
Eastern  
Colorado  
Health  
Care  
System

# 2005 Arts gram

Tuesday, October 18, 2005



A DAILY PUBLICATION OF THE 2005 NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

## Local Veterans Welcome the Festival to Denver



*Elizabeth Sheffield, local Denver planning committee member, hands a Festival registration packet to local participant Robert Dalton.*

Welcome to the Denver, one of America's most beautiful cities. This week, three veterans who receive treatment at VA Eastern Colorado Health Care System in Denver are happy to have the 2005 Festival in their area.

Local veterans include Englewood resident Robert Dalton, 58, an Army veteran who served in combat in Vietnam. He took first place in the national music competition in the instrumental solo (religious) category.

Ronald Tomocik, 65, of Denver, is

another Army veteran who won first place in the national music competition in the instrumental solo (country/folk/bluegrass) category. Larry Ashkie, 58, of Window Rock, Ariz., is another Vietnam combat veteran who served in the Marine Corps. His gold medal came in the national art competition's acrylic painting category.

"It is a special honor to have my fellow veterans see this beautiful city," said Dalton. "I hope they will take advantage of their time in Denver to reconnect with nature and have a great time. The beauty of nature is on display here."

Dalton has played the accordion for some 50 years. In 1967, he took his accordion with him to Vietnam, where he made videotapes for the Armed Forces Vietnam Network in Saigon. He is joining the chorus in Sunday's show.

Participating in a high-profile event is not new to Dalton, having performed with the USO, Capitol Group and Show Wagons. He also performs in local nursing homes and the local VA Medical Center's chapel. Dalton also won a silver medal this year in the instrumental solo (rock) category.

"Denver is definitely not a cow town," said Tomocik, expressing what he wants all visitors to know. Whether it's the beautiful view of the Rockies or the bright sunny days in October, Tomocik is glad the Festival is here. "This time of year you will be energized by the great weather and wonderful climate. In this great city, you can do anything in Denver – we have it all!"

Tomocik will perform "Pekka Polka," a piece he wrote and named after a Finnish accordionist. He specializes in ethnic music and has recorded 15 CDs. His

signature CD is entitled "From Albania to Zimbabwe," encompassing music from 44 countries.

"I feel very lucky to be chosen as number one in my category," said Tomocik. "My art is my life. When I play, I can see and feel the positive vibrations from the audience."

Although Ashkie lives in Arizona, he receives his health care at the VA medical center in Denver, and credits the facility for his involvement in the Festival. "I entered the competition because of the encouragement of the Denver VA Medical Center staff," he said. "I enjoy the challenge of creating as well as the opportunity to compete. I enjoy painting wildlife

and range scenes, but I am more successful with sunsets in linear forms." Ashkie's interest in art began as a young boy when he would make clay figures. His award-winning piece, entitled "Festival Day Dream," has a special meaning since his piece is among the artwork selected for year's event.

The local veterans led the pledge at last evening's Opening Ceremonies. Ronald Tomocik summed up the group's sentiments, saying, "This is going to be a great event, and we hope the memories made here will last a lifetime."





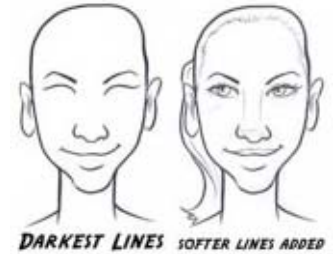
# HOW TO DRAW A CARICATURE

those artists who may want to try this on their own, there are a few key elements to a caricature that will separate the good from the mediocre. Keep them in mind while drawing.

**Likeness:** This is obviously the most important element to a caricature. Without careful observation, likeness can be lost very easily.

**Life:** Try to capture that particular individual's personality and character. Don't paste the same expression on every face.

**Exaggeration:** Imagine a line with two ends on it. One end is labeled "exaggerated caricatures" and the other end is labeled "portrait caricatures." Every caricature artist finds some spot between the two ends.



**Line Quality:** Good line quality is critical to a successful caricature. Varied lines are much more pleasing to the eye than flat, boring lines. Make sure your lines are thicker where there are harder edges (like under the nose, mouth, chin, eyes, and all outer lines) and softer where there is detail (such as wrinkles and the overall facial structure).

**Composition:** Boring composition kills the life and energy of any drawing. Make your composition dynamic. Think of it as if you are looking through a window, visualizing a three-dimensional space that is occupied by people. When drawing several people, it is best to stack each person (shortest to tallest) behind each other in space. Also, make sure you leave some space up top for their heads.

Caricature drawing is one form of art that is loved by the masses. Everyone enjoys seeing how closely their caricature matches their appearance and their personality. Have fun as you demonstrate your artistic talents through this popular form of visual art!



## Basic Tap Dance Steps

Tap dancing always appears to be fairly complicated. It all starts with a series of basic steps linked

together. When you add timing, fluidity and creativity, it just looks masterful. For anyone wanting to try out this wonderful dance form, here are a few tips.

1. Put on your tap shoes and some cool music.
2. Start by tapping your toe to the beat. Do this faster and faster to build strength.
3. Brush the ball of one foot forward and then back to shuffle.
4. Step back on the ball of your right foot and step on your left (or vice versa) to do the "ball change," a common tap step.

5. Brush forward with the ball of your foot and step on the ball of it for the "flap."
  6. Do a cramproll, by jumping up and landing with your feet. Do this in the following order: land first on the ball of your right foot, then the ball of your left foot, followed by your right heel and, finally, your left heel.
  7. Step with your right foot and touch your left toe behind it for the "step toe."
  8. Learn the stomp. It's similar to stepping, but you hit your foot on the ground to stomp and then lift it off (placing no weight on the foot when you stomp).
  9. Perform the shuffle hop. Do the basic shuffle with your right foot and, leaving your right foot in the air, jump up.
- Sound like fun? It is!





Sign up today between 4 – 5 p.m. to audition for special parts in Sunday’s show. The actual auditions for solos, narrations and other stage opportunities take place this evening from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

If you need a copy of the narrations and songs, they can be pickled up in the main rehearsal room. All production numbers must be memorized, but not the narrations. This year’s audition pieces are listed below.

### A Salute to American Service



A medley of service songs is always a crowd pleaser, and everyone will sing this production number at the beginning of the show. Some harmonies are written in. Six people are needed to carry in the service and American flags – be sure to come by to audition for the flag bearer roles.

### The Star Spangled Banner

Always a favorite, this final production number has parts for four soloists. Once again, these are challenging pieces and anyone who feels their vocal capabilities can handle the demanding solos is encouraged to audition (even if you already have another solo in the show). The ensemble will join in near the end. Solo #4, the most difficult piece, will be the solo performed at the audition.

### Veterans

Back by popular demand, this piece was written by our music director, Bill Haworth. It has three solos. Everyone will participate in this song, but if you are interested in performing a solo, please audition.

### Young

A narrator is needed to read this original creative writing piece by veteran James Grey. If you have a loud, clear voice and would like to get more involved in the show, here is your opportunity!



### Afternoon at the Ball Game

Where are all those Colorado Rockies fans? If you’ve got the gear, try out for a part. There are non-speaking parts during this performance, where participants will act the part of watching a baseball game. Note: you must have your own purple shirts, hats or other Colorado Rockies baseball gear in order to be in this scene. Hot dogs and peanuts anyone?

Copies of music and narrations are available in the rehearsal rooms. Sign-up for audition solos and narrations will be held in Ballrooms A and B, Orly, O’Hare, and LaGuardia rooms this afternoon, from 4 – 5 p.m. *Everyone must sign up at this time in order to audition later this evening.*



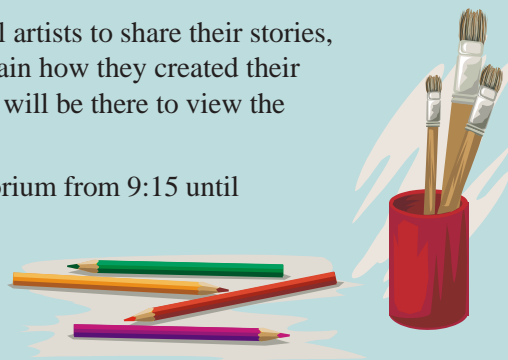
This evening, you will be called out of chorus number rehearsal one at a time between 7:30 – 9:30 p.m. to audition in the O’Hare Room.

## Artist Interaction Session Held Today

The Artist Interaction Session is an annual Festival event for our visual artists to share their stories, describe their artwork, share the concept behind their visions and explain how they created their award-winning pieces. Family, friends, media, volunteers and VA staff will be there to view the award-winning artwork and share the inspiration.

The session will be held today at the Denver VA Medical Center auditorium from 9:15 until 11:30 a.m.

If you plan to attend, the bus departs from the front of the hotel at 8:45 a.m. Buses will leave the medical center at 11:45 a.m. to return to the hotel for lunch.





# Photos from the Festival



Don Gibby from Salt Lake City and his wife Lael arrive at the hotel.



Festival participants arriving at the hotel in Denver.

## Arriving at the Festival



George Ford, of Coatesville, Pa., enjoys a "light snack" in the hospitality suite. Ford is the great nephew of the Tennessee Ernie Ford.



Festival participants and guests enjoy the hospitality room. Left to right: Rebecca and Bill Heissler, Nick Strom, Denise Smith and Kathy Riojas.





## Registration



*Festival participants (left to right) Bob Blakley of St. Paul, Minn.; Bob Keogh of South St. Paul, Minn.; and Tom Betz of Falcon Heights, Minn. are briefed on the Veterans History Project by Gwendolyn Coley of Atlanta, Ga.*



*Angela Mitchell from the Denver VA Medical Center receives her Festival T-shirt from Bruce Newton of the Denver VA Regional Office.*



*Jennifer Mignolia from the Denver VA Medical Center gets a therapeutic massage from Justino Silva of Massage USA during registration Monday.*

*Photos from the Festival*





## HOMETOWN NEWS AT THE CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

The Hometown News program at all of VA's national events is an effort to provide a news release to the local newspapers of our participants, letting them know about your attendance this year. A news release is a written document that is sent to the news media to let them know about a good story idea. At the Festival, all written news releases are placed on our Festival

web site. We also notify local media across the country to let them know there is a veteran from their area at this special national program.

If your phone number is listed on your news release, you may get a phone call from your local newspaper when you get home requesting an interview about the Festival. Some of you may have asked that your phone number not be listed on



your news release on the Festival Web site, and we will certainly honor any of these requests. Please know, however, that if your local media should contact us and want to interview you when you get home, we will provide them with your phone number so they may call you directly. If you do not want your phone number given to your local media, please let us know so we can discontinue media efforts on your behalf and not prepare your news release.

The Hometown News program is a wonderful way to let your communities know about their local veterans' star status! It is also a very good way to tell other talented

veterans out there about the Creative Arts program and the services that may be available to them at their local VA medical centers. We hope to have all of this year's news releases posted on the Web site by mid-week (see

[www.creativeartsfestival.org](http://www.creativeartsfestival.org) under "Participant Information"). We will also be taking many photos of you while you are rehearsing or displaying your artwork, and hope to have the best photos on the web site by Friday or Saturday. We will provide one 4x6" print of that photo for you as well, along with a copy of your own personal news release.

We hope that you have also brought along your own cameras so you can ask your friends or Festival volunteers to take additional photos of you performing, rehearsing, displaying your artwork, attending workshops or touring local areas of interest. (Or, use the free camera in your new Festival back pack!)

Thank you for letting us tell your story about your talents, your achievements and your participation in the 2005 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival!



**NVCAF WEB SITE**  
[www.creativeartsfestival.org](http://www.creativeartsfestival.org)

Would you like your friends and family back home to be able to see what you are doing this week? Log onto the Festival Web site to check out the daily editions of the *ArtsGram* (on the main home page) as well as individual news releases and photos, located on the "Participant Information" tab.



**Happy Birthday to Festival participant,  
John Berry!**



Veterans History Project (VHP) Interviews will take place all week (through Sunday morning) in the VHP taping room at the Renaissance Denver Hotel, Room 314. Artists, performers and veteran staff/volunteers may be interviewed today, from 8 – 11 a.m. and 1 – 4 p.m. Take advantage of your free time and sign up for your interview with Butch Miller in the VHP taping room. This historic project honors our nation'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 this week at the Festival and help make history!

Veterans' interviews will be taped and given to the Library of Congress. Each participant will also receive a special VHP tote bag and a DVD copy of their interview. Interviews will take place from 8 – 11 a.m. and 1 – 4 p.m. through Saturday, and from 8 – 11 a.m. Sunday morning.

Sign up soon!

# F - Y - I



The hospitality room, staffed by our wonderful volunteers, offers snacks, soft drinks, juices, and coffee for all

Festival participants, staff and volunteers.

The room is located on the third floor, rooms 301 and 303. It is open today from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Enjoy!



The medical support team is located on the third floor, room 318, and are available at all times during the Festival

week. Medical support team members will also accompany all tours away from the hotel.

If you have a medical concern or health issue, please contact your team leader. We hope to make your stay here in Denver the very best.



## Meet with Your Team Leader

Meet with your team leader this morning through Friday at 8:30 a.m. Check with your team leader for the location of your meetings.

On Saturday, October 22, the team meetings will begin at 9:00 a.m. On Sunday, October 23, team leader meetings will begin at 11:00 a.m.

## Professional Continuing Education

The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is approved to grant official continuing education units through the American Therapeutic Recreation Association



(ATRA) for the three educational sessions being offered this week. A total of .6 CEUs can be earned by attending all three sessions.

A fee of \$10 includes all CEUs earned by the participant for the entire professional education sessions. The \$10 fee must be paid prior to the first session attended. *ONLY CHECKS or CASH will be accepted.* Checks should be made out to VAMC #554, **GPF 5035**. Those not wanting CEUs, but interested in attending one of the educational sessions, may attend free of charge.

## The first session tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Maureen Harvey, LPC, ATR, registered art therapist at the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center, and Marisa Straub, ATR, registered art therapist at the VA facility in Milwaukee will present today's seminar, "Using Art as Therapy with the Veteran Population." The seminar will take place in the Stapleton Room (Atrium Level) from 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.



**Tuesday, October 18, 2005**

### Traditional Continental Breakfast

Southwest Scramble Burrito  
Juices, Fruit and Berries  
Danish, Croissants, Muffins, Pastries  
Oatmeal and Dry Cereals  
Milk and Soy Milk, Yogurt  
Coffee, Milk, Hot Tea  
Cream, Sugar, Sugar Substitute

### Deli Lunch Buffet

Vegetarian Minestrone Soup  
Cobb Salad Platter  
Country Style Mustard Potato Salad  
Kettle Style Potato Chips  
Sandwich Bar - Meats, Cheeses and Breads with  
Condiments  
Fresh Whole Fruit  
White Chocolate Macadamia Cookies  
Lemon Bars  
Coffee, Milk, Hot Tea, Iced Tea  
Cream, Sugar, Sugar Substitute

### Dinner - Home on the Range Buffet

Beef Short Ribs, Blackened Mahi-Mahi  
Colorado Green Salad, Green Bean Salad  
Baked Potato Bar  
Assorted Breads and Rolls, with Butter or Margarine  
Fresh Whole Fruit  
Apple Cobbler, Chocolate Ecstasy Torte  
Coffee, Milk, Hot Tea, Iced Tea  
Cream, Sugar, Sugar Substitute



**Partly Cloudy**  
**High 78°**  
**Low 47°**



## Schedule for Tuesday, October 18, 2005

7 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Hotel  
— Ballrooms C, D

8:30 a.m. Team leaders meet with artists

8:45 a.m. Depart for VA Medical Center

9 – 11 p.m. Hospitality Room Open  
— Room 301 and 303, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

9:15 a.m. Artists Interaction Session  
— VA Medical Center Auditorium

11:45 a.m. Return to hotel

12:30 p.m. Lunch at hotel  
— Ballrooms C, D

1:30 – 4:30 p.m. Art Workshop #1: Caricature Drawing  
— Stapleton Room, Atrium Level

5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Dinner  
— Ballrooms C, D

7 – 9 p.m. Caricature Drawings  
— Gatwick Room, Atrium Level

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Art Therapy CEU Session (staff)  
— Stapleton Room, Atrium Level

9:30 – 11 p.m. Karaoke/Social Time  
— National Room, Atrium Level

7 – 8:30 a.m. Breakfast at Hotel  
— Ballrooms C, D

8:30 a.m. Team leaders meet with performers

9 a.m. – 12 Noon Introductions and announcements for ALL stage performers and staff. Individual acts introduced and perform, in costume, in show order  
— Ballrooms A, B

9 a.m. – 11 p.m. Hospitality Room Open  
Rooms 301 and 303, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

Noon Lunch at hotel — Ballrooms C, D

1 – 4 p.m. Rehearsal of individual acts with directors, as scheduled  
— Ballrooms A, B

1 – 4 p.m. Chorus member vests, other costume fittings  
— LaGuardia Room, Ballroom Level

1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Chorus music rehearsal with assistant directors  
— O'Hare Room, Ballroom Level

4 – 5 p.m. Rehearsal and sign-up for audition solos and narrations  
— Ballrooms A, B, O'Hare, Orly and LaGuardia Rooms

5:30 – 6:45 p.m. Dinner – Ballrooms C, D

7 – 9:30 p.m. Chorus number rehearsal (All show participants)  
— Ballrooms A, B

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Auditions for solos and narrations — one person at a time will be called out of chorus number rehearsal  
— O'Hare Room, Banquet Level

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. Art Therapy CEU Session (staff)  
— Stapleton Room, Atrium Level

9:30 – 11 p.m. Karaoke/Social Time  
— National Room, Atrium Level