



## NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS COMPETITION

After a 5-year break from the Fargo VA, the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition was held on September 10th in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor Auditorium.

26 Veterans shared their talents by submitting a total of 46 entries into the Art Division. Of these entries, 24 pieces were entered in 16 different art categories ranging from woodworking to sculpture and needlework. These pieces were judge by 3 local artists; 18 pieces have met criteria to advance and be judged at the national level. Another 17 art pieces were on display in the exhibition category. We also had 2 Veterans submit 5 creative writing creations. The Creative Writing Division had a “soft opening” this year, as it was not advertised, however our Veterans were excited to share their talents.

The 2024 Local Creative Arts Competition was a testament to the talent and creativity thriving within our Veteran community. The benefits to our Veterans can be best put in their own words, one Veteran stated, “I had been feeling down, now my art is moving onto the National level, and I have to get working on my piece for next year.” Another stated “my art gives me an outlet to share how I am feeling inside, because I won’t say out loud”.

We are grateful of the support of the North Dakota American Legion Auxiliary for co-sponsoring the event.

Peoples Choice award winner



Another favorite



If you want to learn more about the National Creatives Arts Competition and Festival here are some sites to check out.

Fargo site:

<https://www.va.gov/fargo-health-care/programs/veteran-creative-arts-competition/>

National site:

<https://department.va.gov/veteran-sports/national-veterans-creative-arts-festival/>

-Kim Heazlett, Recreation Therapist and Creative Arts Competition Coordinator