



NATIONAL VETERANS CREATIVE ARTS FESTIVAL

# ArtsGram

*A Daily Publication of the 2003 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival*

*Sunday, October 12, 2003*

## Special Edition

# 2003 Shirley Jefferies Award Recipient Suzanne Anderson



Introduced to music early in life, both sides of Suzanne's Anderson's family have strong backgrounds in music, and she grew up in a household where playing musical instruments was encouraged. Anderson began piano lessons in the first grade and

continued through high school, entering in competitions and accompanying groups. Awarded a scholarship to Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa in 1988, Anderson studied music therapy with an emphasis on piano, graduating in 1992.

Following a six-month internship at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, Texas, Anderson was hired as a music therapist at the VA Medical Center in Knoxville, Iowa. For almost eleven years, she has worked as a creative arts therapist, bringing to countless veterans her love of music and strong belief in its ability to heal.

Anderson's involvement with the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival began in 1993 when she attended the event in St. Cloud, Minn. with her supervisor, Shirley Jefferies. Then National Advisor of the Festival, Jefferies encouraged her to prepare the Knoxville veterans to enter the competition and perform in the Festival stage show.

Over the years, veterans from the Knoxville facility have performed dance routines and vocal and instrumental acts for several Festival shows. Anderson's own interest and experience in musical theater has been an asset to her work in VA. She was involved with the planning of the 1994 Festival, hosted by the Knoxville VA Medical Center. During that year, Jefferies passed away, leaving Anderson and other staff of the host medical center to pick up the pieces and proceed with the plans for the Festival.

Throughout the past three years, Anderson has served as stage manager for the Festival stage show. She also accepted the responsibilities of performing arts assistant in 2000, and held the position of national dance chairperson for a total of six years. Her role this year has expanded to include planning and carrying out the specifics of the stage show. Part of this responsibility involves writing the entire technical script for lighting, audio, video, staging, emcee and special effect cues.

Suzanne Anderson has given graciously of her time, talents and experience. Her work reflects the true spirit behind the meaning of creative arts therapy – the ability to positively influence the lives of others through artistic avenues.

Congratulations to Suzanne Anderson, this year's Shirley Jefferies Award recipient!



**"Hitch your wagon to a star."  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson**

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## The Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award

Shirley Jefferies was a Recreation Therapist at the Knoxville, Iowa VA Medical Center. She served as Advisor to the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival until her death in 1994. Jeffries was a vital influence to the beginnings of the program and the drive behind many of its changes and growth. She held a love for the arts and their therapeutic value in life. She has made a lasting impact on many veterans and staff members involved with the event.

The Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award began in 1994. It is presented each year to an individual who demonstrates true dedication to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, its goals and philosophy. Through recognition of an individual who has displayed such dedication, we pay tribute to Jeffries and also carry on her therapeutic message.

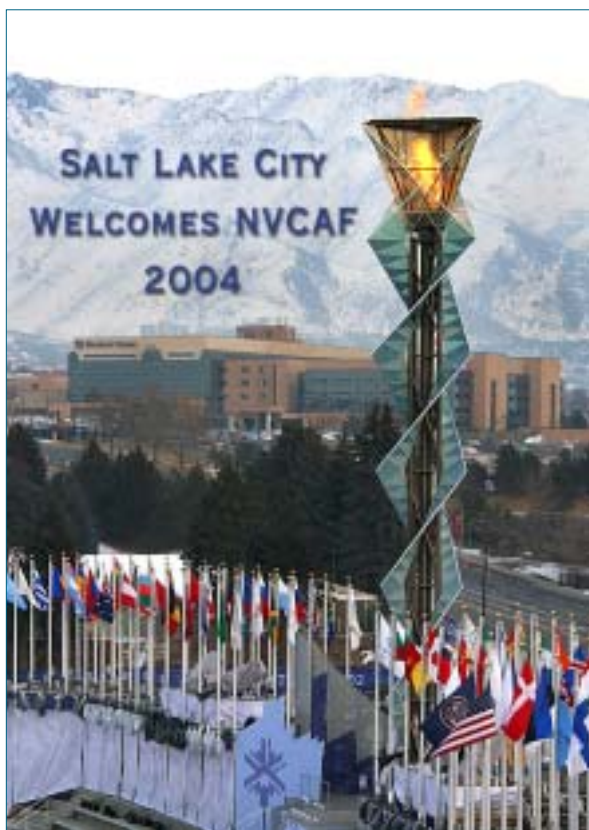
Past Shirley Jefferies Memorial Award recipients include:

- 1994 **Don Ziska**, former director, Knoxville, Iowa VAMC
- 1995 **Jennifer Lewis**, music therapist, Temple, Texas
- 1996 **Leah Givler**, former music therapist, Coatesville, Pa.
- 1997 **Linda Colletti**, former visual arts assistant, San Diego, Calif.
- 1998 **Katharina (Katy) Ryan**, recreation therapist, Minneapolis, Minn.
- 1999 **Bill Haworth**, NVCAF music director, San Diego, Calif.
- 2000 **Elizabeth (Liz) Nealy**, recreation therapist, Houston, Texas
- 2001 **Jessie Herndon**, music therapist, Chicago, Ill.
- 2002 **Jean Calhoun**, music therapist, Tomah, Wis.
- 2003 **Suzanne Anderson**, music therapist, Knoxville, Iowa VAMC



Suzanne Anderson, 2003 award winner

## Salt Lake City to Host 2004 Festival



The VA Salt Lake City Health Care System, nestled on the east bench of the breathtaking Wasatch mountain range, is preparing to provide you with a memorable experience as host of next year's National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

Salt Lake City features world-renowned performance companies encompassing dance, theater, opera and music. The spirit that attracted the pioneers to the Salt Lake valley more than 150 years ago is still visible today as we continue to attract growth in business, industry and visitors. Salt Lake is home to the world-famous Mormon Tabernacle Choir, the Utah Symphony, Ballet West, Utah Opera Company and Ririe-Woodbury Dance Company. As host of the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, the world was provided a glimpse of the state's many resort locations.

Next year's Festival participants will experience the beautiful autumn colors and mild climate, which will enhance the many outdoor activities. Participants will be within walking distance of our famous Red Butte Garden and Arboretum, Hogle Zoo and *This is the Place Monument*.

"We look forward with great enthusiasm as the staff of the VA Salt Lake City Health Care System and our community partners prepare to welcome Festival participants," said James R. Floyd, host facility director.

The Salt Lake City Festival will be held October 10-16, 2004.

# Good Bye and Good Luck from the 2003 Media Center Crew!

Congratulations on a job well-done!

By the time you read this, the art exhibit and show will be over and you will be ready to finally relax and enjoy your last night in Oklahoma City. There is a special dinner and program prepared for you tonight. Enjoy!

Those of us who worked in the media center thoroughly enjoyed our week with you. What an inspiration all of the participants have been to us! We did not get a chance to meet all of you or hear your stories, but those we heard and those we reported have changed our lives. Thank you for sharing them with us.

We also want to thank the staff from the Oklahoma City VA Medical Center who supported the whole event. They provided the much needed assistance to accomplish our tasks for the week.

Remember, when you get home and start thinking about the week and all the special people you met this week, you can log on to the Festival Web site at:

[www.va.gov/vetevent/caf/2003](http://www.va.gov/vetevent/caf/2003) and see all your friends again. Those of you who requested a news release will be able to download your release and see the picture posted on the site for use by media in your hometown. (Of course, all of this week's ArtsGrams are available there, too!)

Please be safe as you travel home tomorrow. We want to encourage you to continue the pursuit of your talents. We hope to hear that you have entered the Festival again next year. so we can see you again in Salt Lake City.

Sincerely,

Lana Shuman (ArtsGram editor), Kim Byers, Ivonne McDowell, Jeff West, John Zewiske, Shobhana Shah, Barbara Sellon, Edna Lowe-Martin, Laura Bishop, Gene Davies, Sherilyn Fails, Mary Sampson, Tammy Kierstead, Michele Wood, Susan Fleece, Susan Huff, Tony Cabellero, Suzi Carter, Bobby Poff, Eric Eisen, Elise Moran and Taquanta Reeves.

For Your Information ...

## Transportation to the Airport Tomorrow!

Be sure to be in the hotel lobby with all luggage packed, identified and not locked at least two and a half hours before your flight departure time tomorrow. Transportation has been arranged to get you to the airport.

## Check It Out!

The Web site for the Festival is:  
[www.va.gov/vetevent/caf/2003](http://www.va.gov/vetevent/caf/2003)



### Monday, October 13

#### **Breakfast**

Assorted Juices  
Danish and Assorted Muffins  
Scrambled Eggs  
Crispy Bacon  
Breakfast Potatoes  
Country Biscuits and Sausage Gravy  
Assorted Dry Cereals  
Starbuck's Coffee and Milk

**(And No Chicken!)**

