

About the Cover Art



Bridget Craig has long considered photography to be a serious hobby, having entered contests occasionally (even finding success in a few) and using her artistic photography abilities to recognize friends with personal gifts for special occasions. So when the Navy Veteran selected several of her photos to be considered for the 2012 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, she thought she might do well in the competition. And she did well in the National competition that features artwork from Veterans from across the country, but not well enough to warrant a trip to Boston to participate in the Festival.

“I was okay when I found out I hadn’t won,” she said “but disappointed since I had never been to Boston.” Then Craig got the call from her recreation therapist at the Louis A. Johnson Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center telling her one of her photos, titled *Claret Cup Cactus 16* was selected as one of five submissions to adorn the cover of two issues of *JRRD* during 2013.

“I was ecstatic and beyond words,” said Craig. “God has blessed me so much over the last two years, and this is just one more way I know he is helping me. He has given me a talent that allows others to see the beauty that I capture, while he has also provided me with an outlet to handle the troubles of my daily life and to reduce some of the stresses that I experience.”

Craig, who served as a Navy Hospital Corpsman and X-ray technician from 1977 to 1981, said the support of the military and the VA allowed her to better herself and be successful in every way. Craig’s husband, a retired Navy Seal who served in Vietnam and elsewhere, is 100 percent disabled with posttraumatic stress issues and gunshot injuries suffered during his service.

This year marks the 10th year of *JRRD* sponsoring artists for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. “This exceptional event is a natural fit for *JRRD*,” said Stacieann Yuhasz, PhD, editor. “As the only scientific journal produced by the VA, and since creative arts and creative expression have been shown to provide rehabilitative benefits to people suffering with emotional and physical disabilities, it makes perfect sense for us to partner and support the healing efforts of our Nation’s Veterans.”

