Navy Veteran Camilo John Toto loved his art. The 59-year-old Vietnam-era Veteran who grew up in Framingham, Massachusetts, picked up his artistic talent in high school and honed his skills during his downtime while serving on the U.S.S. Enterprise as a Maintenance Ordinance Assemblyman. Mr. Toto described his art as something interesting to do while passing the time, working mostly in pencil and mosaic.

The work featured in this issue, Old Mill, is a colored pencil creation produced by Mr. Toto while participating in the Art and Creativity Workshop at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Boston Healthcare System Outpatient Facility. Mr. Toto said he found working with the group to be both therapeutic and gratifying. This, he proudly stated, was the first time he had been recognized or awarded for his artwork.

Mr. Toto, who passed away in May 2014 after a lengthy battle with cancer, loved spending time with family. He was an actively involved member in the Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Program (PRRC) at the VA Boston Healthcare System and participated in many groups, including the center’s weekly Art and Creativity Group. Along with his art, Mr. Toto enjoyed music, and according to his friends and program leaders, he was a well-liked, very friendly, kind-hearted man who came from a close-knit and supportive family. The PRRC has planned a memorial service to celebrate Mr. Toto’s life with staff and his family.