

## About the Cover Art

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David Roos has never considered himself to be an artist. In fact the Air Force Veteran from Hastings, Minnesota, says he doesn't really even enjoy art that much, but he uses art and crafting to relax and pass time. When the suggestion was made to enter his painting, *Summer Porch*, into the local Veterans creative arts competition, Mr. Roos said he sort of shrugged his shoulders and said okay. "It's just a water color project that I picked up at a local craft shop," he said. "There's nothing really artistic about that, if you ask me. But I agreed."

Mr. Roos' work did well enough on the local level to garner entry into the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, where it placed 2nd in the Paint by Number category. It is also featured on the cover of this issue of *JRRD*. That, said Mr. Roos, was a nice surprise.

A resident of the Minnesota Veterans Home—Hastings, Mr. Roos spent his four-year military career from 1969 to 1973 in the Philippines earning the rank of sergeant. "It was my first time traveling so I enjoyed it," said the communications specialist. He adds that when he wasn't working, he liked to do paint by numbers, mostly with acrylic paint but with no particular favorite design. Even today he says he'll visit craft stores and just pick up a set that seems interesting.

The soft-spoken Veteran credits his mom with igniting his interest in paint by numbers, probably when he was in junior high school, he says. But he stuck with it and continued to improve by working alone and just staying focused. "There's not much to the process, but it provides good therapy."

