

Veterans Still Serving With “Operation Sight and Sound”

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The Minnesota Veterans Home Adult Day Center is pioneering a new program tailored for Veterans serving from WWII to Vietnam. “Operation Sight & Sound” (OSS) brings Veterans together for group songwriting and individual artistic expression through photography and performance.

Operation-Sight-and-Sound-small In a joint project sponsored by the Adult Day Center, Recreation Specialist Jodi Kritzeck, and Minnesota songwriter Charlie Maguire, OSS seeks to encourage self-expression, recognition, and service by each Veteran on topics that interest them. Group songwriting provides the Veterans an opportunity to ease into making their own art (“Sound”). The photography, using one-use cameras, allows them to photograph what the lyrics in the songs mean to them personally and create a Photo Flag (“Sight”). Finally, the participants in OSS desired to serve not only Veterans but people who were disadvantaged. The programming and exhibit was enhanced and the Veterans took their songs and pictures ‘on the road’ to those audiences.



Themes for the songs are created and written by the Veterans such as, “The Beauty of the Everyday,” and a historical ballad about the Mississippi River called, “Saint Anthony Falls.” All of these chosen themes involved field trips for the Veterans around Home campuses or to locations like the Mississippi River. All the participants are excited to share their new found talents of writing, singing, and photography by venturing around Minnesota meeting new people and serving others once again.

Upcoming Performances:

- Friday, October 30, 2015, 12:00 PM at Brooklyn United Methodist Church, 7200 Brooklyn Blvd, Brooklyn Center, MN.
- Friday, November 6, 2015, 1:00 PM at Wilder Adult Day Health, 650 Marshall Avenue, Saint Paul, MN
- Friday, November 13, 2015, 10:30 AM at Minnesota Veterans Home, (Main Building) 5101 Minneapaha Ave., Minneapolis, MN.

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The Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs is a cabinet level state agency dedicated to serving Minnesota Veterans and their families. In addition to overseeing the five State Veterans Homes, MDVA helps eligible Veterans and families secure state and federal benefits and provides programs and services relating to higher education, benefits, burial, claims, outreach and Veterans employment. Veterans and their families are encouraged to visit MinnesotaVeteran.org or call 1-(888)-LinkVet for more information about benefits.