

The original documents are located in Box 47, folder “Veterans Administration Hospital Bicentennial Art Contest and Winners Announcement” of the Betty Ford White House Papers, 1973-1977 at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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2.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

474-1522
tentative Monday
11.30

Carolyn, f.y.i.

written some of the tapes you have cut for the PFC and who works very closely with Mark said he would be glad to lend a hand. In addition to the two phones I listed for him, he also has a phone with a beeper on it, 381-9548.

Attached is an extra copy of the copy for the person, Bill Hart or whoever, in assisting.

Thank you,

susan



Dear Mrs. Ford,

Attached is the copy for the V.A. Hospital Bicentennial Art Contest winners announcement.

Any tape recorder can be used. They need to have the tape by Monday though. It will be played through a central system into over a hundred VA hospitals across the country on Wednesday in conjunction with ceremonies announcing the winners.

Mark Rosenker (O; 457-6439, H: 966-3646) is going to be out of town over the week-end, but Bill Hart (O: 457-6439, H: 265-8082) who has

Hello, this is Betty Ford. As you know, it has been my pleasure to have served as honorary chairwoman of the VA Bicentennial Art Contest. I want to express my appreciation to all of the directors, their staffs and to extend congratulations to all of the patients who competed in this Bicentennial Art Contest.

We received more than 100 entries in this unique Bicentennial observance, many with the assistance of your health-care staff members. ~~It was another example of the dedication and compassion shown daily by all VA employees in their efforts to serve the needs of our nation's veterans.~~

Dr. Joshua Taylor, Director of the National Collection of Fine Arts, headed a panel of five prominent art authorities in judging the entries depicting the theme: "Our Veterans: Defending America Over 200 Years".

I am told that many of the participants ranged from Vietnam veterans in their 20s to an 81 year-old with service in World War I. Many of the paintings were completed in occupational therapy classes at the hospitals and this surely proves to be a very important program.

Cash awards, including a first prize of \$1,000 will be sent to sponsoring hospital directors for local presentation to the top 21 winners. Individual recognition will be sent to all participating veterans.

-more-



The top winners and the hospitals they represented were:

First place, Richard Miner, Northampton VA Hospital, Mass.

Second, Clarence Blessing, San Francisco VA Hospital, Calif.

Third, Umberto Amodio, West Haven VA Hospital, Conn.

Fourth, Ceasar Rodriguez, San Antonio VA Hospital, Tex.

Fifth, Walter R. Gholson, Brooklyn VA Hospital, N. Y.

Sixth, C. R. Phelps, Omaha VA Hospital, Neb.

Seventh, Tom Millward, Syracuse VA Hospital, N. Y.

Eighth, Dean T. Boles, Oklahoma City VA Hospital, OK.

Ninth, William M. Roberts, Bay Pines VA Center, Fla.

Tenth, David Hetherington, Leavenworth VA Center, Kans.

