

CREATIVE FORCES

NEA MILITARY HEALING ARTS NETWORK

Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP) is a DC- and Hampton Roads-based nonprofit with a mission to reintegrate veterans, service members, and military families into their communities through the arts. ASAP promotes expression, skill-development, and camaraderie through classes, workshops, and performances across a variety of artistic disciplines. The organization's focus on consistent programs and partnerships ensures that members of its community have continuous opportunities for artistic and personal growth. ASAP's approach provides participants with transferable life skills, a renewed sense of purpose, and improved well-being. At the same time, ASAP strengthens ties between veterans and their communities through the arts.

Claudia Avila has a degree in international business and has achieved the Army Family Team Building Training. She is a military spouse, mother to three amazing boys—Jose, Miguel, and Luis Jr. —who are the most resilient hidden heroes in her eyes. She is a strong advocate for wounded, ill, injured, and well military service members and their families, and has often been referred to as a true 'battle buddy' to her husband and other service members in recovery. She is a member of the Task Force Caregiver Initiative for the Army. She and her husband, CPT Luis Avila, are pillars of their community and are fixtures at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center where Claudia spends her days working alongside CPT Avila in his recovery, as his spouse, advocate, and primary caregiver. For Avila, being a caregiver isn't a job or a task, it is her duty, responsibility, and service, and she serves proudly and humbly. She has much gratitude for her family, friends, military family, community, and medical professionals who all work together to heal CPT Avila and all of our Nation's heroes. She is a member of the Army Family Action Plan and she has received awards and special acknowledgments for her extraordinary efforts and exemplary actions in caregiving including the Hero Award from PenFed in 2018.

Nolen Bivens is president of Leader Six, Inc.; senior military community engagement advisor for Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network; chair of the National Leadership Advisory Council—National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military; and a senior policy fellow, arts & military for Americans for the Arts. Bivens, a former U.S. Army general and advocate of the arts to help service members suffering the invisible wounds of war, has testified before Congress and advised special art productions such as the theatrical dance production *Healing Wars*; PBS's *Crafts in America* – “SERVICE” episode; and the Smithsonian Institution's Haiti Cultural Recovery Project. His military service highlights include chief of staff, U.S. Southern Command; deputy commanding general, 4th Infantry Division; and, various U.S. Joint, Army and Special Operations Command staff positions.

Pam Breaux joined the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA) in 2015. As president and CEO, she works with the association's board of directors and staff to advance NASAA's policy and programmatic mission to strengthen America's state and jurisdictional arts agencies. A native of Lafayette, Louisiana, Breaux has held leadership positions at the local, state, and national levels. While in Louisiana state government, she was secretary of the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism (CRT), assistant secretary of CRT (overseeing its cultural development portfolio), and

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executive director of its state arts agency (the Louisiana Division of the Arts). Before working in state government, Pam was executive director of the Arts and Humanities Council of Southwest Louisiana and managed southwest Louisiana's Decentralized Arts Funding Program. She has served on the boards of the U.S. Travel Association, NASAA, South Arts, and the Louisiana Board of International Commerce. Breaux is currently a member of the U.S. National Commission on UNESCO. She graduated from McNeese State University with a BA in English and earned an MA in English and folklore from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

Dr. Heechin Chae serves as the director of Intrepid Spirit One at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. Dr. Chae received a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from the University of Virginia and doctor of medicine degree from Medical College of Virginia/Virginia Commonwealth University. He subsequently completed his medical internship and residency in physical medicine & rehabilitation through the Harvard Medical School system in Boston, Massachusetts. A board-certified psychiatrist with more than 15 years' experience in clinical practice and research in traumatic brain injuries, he now serves as the site director of the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center at Fort Belvoir in addition to his appointment as the director of the Department of Traumatic Brain Injury. Prior to his arrival at Fort Belvoir in 2011, he spent more than 15 years at the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital and in the Harvard Medical School System in Boston, where he held the faculty appointment as assistant professor of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation. He was involved in extensive research and teaching activities while treating patients with mild, moderate, and severe traumatic brain injuries. Dr. Chae has been recognized throughout his career with numerous awards, including "Medical All-Star" by the Boston Red Sox. He is also board certified in brain injury medicine and pain medicine.

Jane Chu is the 11th chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts. With a background in arts administration and philanthropy, Chairman Chu is also an accomplished artist and musician. She leads a dedicated and passionate group of people to support and fund the arts and creative activities in communities across the nation. During her tenure to date, Chu has awarded more than \$490 million in grants to nonprofit organizations and artists; issued new research reports on arts participation and the impact of the arts and cultural industries on the nation's gross domestic product; has traveled to all 50 states, visiting hundreds of communities across the nation to see first-hand how the arts are impacting people and places; and launched the United States of Arts project that demonstrates the importance of the arts in our communities and our lives. In 2015, Chairman Chu launched her signature leadership initiative, Creativity Connects, to investigate the current state of the arts in our nation, and explore how the arts connect with other industries. She also oversaw multiple-year increases to the NEA's Congressional budget appropriation to expand its military healing arts initiative, Creative Forces.

Niyati Dhokai is a research assistant professor in the College of Visual and Performing Arts at George Mason University, and she also serves as program manager for the Veterans and the Arts Initiative at the Hylton Performing Arts Center. In recognition of her work, Dhokai is the 2018 recipient of George Mason University's Jack Wood Award for Town Gown Relations in the faculty/staff category. Prior to joining the faculty at GMU, she worked with veterans and service members recovering from injuries in

post-acute neurorehabilitation in the Washington DC metro area by designing and facilitating music activities to support community integration. She is a violinist with a BA in music from George Mason University, and she completed her MA and PhD in music (ethnomusicology) from the University of Alberta, where her doctoral dissertation research was supported by a Fulbright grant to study in India.

Arthur Espinoza Jr., is executive director of the DC Commission on the Arts and Humanities. Prior to his appointment by Mayor Muriel Bowser, Espinoza was managing director of the Washington Ballet (TWB) where in 2010 he began his inaugural season with that internationally recognized ballet company. Espinoza managed a period of significant budget growth at TWB, an increase in the roster of resident company of dancers, and a \$1.5M facility expansion project. From 1999 to 2010, Espinoza served as general manager of Colorado Ballet where he administered company and touring operations, grant writing, production management, national and international touring, marketing and communications, ticket and retail sales operations, and patron and donor relations. Espinoza was instrumental in negotiating multiple collective bargaining agreements at Colorado Ballet, including the company's original union agreement with the American Guild of Musical Artists (AGMA). Espinoza was producer for more than seven seasons of an annual lecture series where he hosted and interviewed well-regarded personalities including former U.S. President Bill Clinton, Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton, Maya Angelou, Jane Goodall, Sidney Poitier, Liberian President Ellen Sirleaf Johnson, and more than 25 other prominent celebrities. Espinoza is also a professional bilingual voiceover artist in radio, television, film, and new media.

Liz K. Freeman is a Creative Forces dance/movement therapist at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE), an integrative treatment program for service members with traumatic brain injury and psychological distress at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland. At the NICoE she is providing dance/movement therapy (DMT) treatment to active duty service members, focusing on enhancement of mind-body skills to increase nervous system regulation and emotional well-being. She received her MA in dance/movement therapy and counseling from Antioch University of New England and her BA from Beloit College in dance. Her other area of clinical focus is in working with adolescents experiencing emotional disturbance due to a history of trauma.

CAPT Walter Greenhalgh is currently the Director for the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE), at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center Bethesda, Maryland. Prior to this assignment he served as the NICoE's Department Chief for Clinical Operations. CAPT Greenhalgh earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Microbiology and Immunology from McGill University, Montreal Quebec, Canada. He then earned his Doctor of Medicine degree from Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. An internship in general surgery at the National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Maryland, was followed by flight surgery training in Pensacola, Florida, with a tour as Naval Flight Surgeon prior to completing a residency in Family Medicine at Naval Hospital Bremerton, Washington. He served a number of domestic and overseas tours of duty as staff Family Physician and Clinical Leader, then attended the Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, where he received a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies. He then served as a staff officer in the Navy Medical Corps Chief's office, and as acting deputy Medical Corps Chief at the Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED) in

Washington, DC. He has deployed to Djibouti, Africa, where he served as the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa Force Surgeon. CAPT Greenhalgh is board-certified in Family Medicine and is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians and of the Uniformed Services Academy of Family Physicians.

Jessica Herman always knew art would play an integral role in her life. When she learned about art therapy she knew it was the perfect combination of her interests in psychology and art. She was born and raised in Pennsylvania and graduated with a bachelor's degree in fine art from Elizabethtown College. Herman received a master's degree from the George Washington University (GW). After her internship at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence at Walter Reed National Military Medical Hospital and her studies at GW, she became interested in trauma and how it effects the brain. Herman now works at the Intrepid Spirit Center at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital as a Creative Forces art therapist. She is passionate about her work with military service members and their families.

Captain (ret) Sara M. Kass, MD serves as the senior military and medical advisor to Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network. Dr. Kass retired from the Navy in March 2015. Immediately prior to retirement she served as deputy commander of the National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE), Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland. Prior to this position she was the deputy chief at Wounded, Ill and Injured, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery (BUMED), Washington, DC. Before reporting to BUMED, she served as faculty in the Department of Family Medicine and director of the University Family Health Center at Uniformed Services University. Dr. Kass earned a bachelor of science degree in biology from Pacific Lutheran University in 1987. She attended Medical School at George Washington University and earned her doctor of medicine degree in 1992. Following medical school she received her training in family medicine at the Puget Sound Family Medicine Residency, serving as chief resident from 1994-1995. While in residency, she was awarded the Society of Teachers of Family Medicine Resident Teacher Award. Dr. Kass also completed tours of duty at Naval Air Facility Adak; Submarine Base Bangor, Silverdale, Washington; Naval Hospital Naples, Italy; and Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. While serving as the officer in charge of the NICoE, Dr. Kass witnessed the healing power of the arts And is driven to increase access to these powerful services for military members and veterans as well as enhance research to understand their impact.

CAPT Mark Kobelja received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama in 1987. Upon completion of Officer Candidate School, he was commissioned and subsequently completed follow-on surface warfare officer training in Newport, Rhode Island. Following his fleet assignments in Norfolk, Virginia, CAPT Kobelja was transferred to the Medical Corps after completing his medical degree at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USUHS), Bethesda, Maryland, in 1996. CAPT Kobelja was assigned to National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland, as a staff anesthesiologist in 2001. In 2011 he transferred to Naval Medical Center San Diego as deputy commander and was responsible for the day-to-day operations of the medical center. Subsequently, he assumed command of Naval Hospital Camp Pendleton at the Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, in July 2013. In July 2015, he transferred to Naples, Italy, for duties as U.S. Naval Forces Europe/Africa and U.S. SIXTH Fleet Surgeon. CAPT Kobelja became the director of Walter Reed National

Military Medical Center in June 2017. His deployments include Task Force Middle East Force while ship's company in 1988; staff anesthesiologist for the 5th Fleet Surgical Augmentation Team, Manama, Bahrain in 2003; and officer-in-charge of a Forward Resuscitation Surgical System surgical team in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, in 2007. CAPT Kobelja is board-certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology and holds an appointment as adjunct assistant professor at USUHS.

Lynda MacFarland is an Army wife of 33 years—her husband Sean recently retired as a lieutenant general after 37 years of active duty service to the nation. MacFarland's interests include writing, reading, and singing, as well as working to improve the quality of life for our awesome Army families by means of her role as a "professional volunteer." Her proudest achievements thus far include helping to implement programs to support her husband's brigade combat team families during its 2006-07 deployment to Iraq and the publication of her book, *Drowning in Lemonade – Reflections of an Army Wife*, in October of 2012. The book addresses the role her faith has had in dealing with the challenges of living an Army life. MacFarland believes in the ability of the arts to help heal the unseen wounds of trauma. This has led her to work with various organizations who also believe this to be true. These include *Reflections of Generosity*, a traveling visual arts exhibit that showcases veteran art, and the National Endowment for the Arts' Creative Forces initiative which also supports our service members, through arts therapy programs, in dealing with post-traumatic stress. MacFarland has a bachelor of arts degree in English literature from the University of Texas at El Paso and is currently on hiatus from studying for a master of theology degree.

Stephen McCombs is an Army reserve member from Lynchburg, Virginia, with more than 20 years of service. He served a tour in Iraq alongside the Iraqi Army as a part of a Military Transition Team (MiTT). He also served two additional deployments to Southwest Asia as a Cyber Assessment Team member and lead. Instead of returning to his family after his last deployment, he was attached to the Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) at Ft. Belvoir for medical treatment. He approached Ashy Palliparambil, the program specialist at the USO, about volunteering to teach a woodturning class once a month to his fellow Soldiers in Transition (ST). To date there have been 150 ST that have been introduced to woodturning at the USO. The woodturning has allowed him to explore his creativity and provided him a sense of tranquility. Due to some of his injuries, he was accepted into the Intrepid Center of Excellence at Ft. Belvoir. This is where he met Jessica Herman, who became an integral part of his healing and a continued mentor. She first introduced him to drawing, charcoal drawing, water color, and acrylic painting. Through painting he has been able to introduce his two children to painting, which has given them quality family time together. He attends the Injured Military Personnel and Art (IMP+art) pottery class weekly lead by Blair Meerfeld at the Art League.

SGT George Tyler McGibbon joined the Army shortly after his 18th birthday in 2012. SGT McGibbon was very active in the Future Soldiers Program while he finished high school. McGibbon left for boot camp on July 15, 2013, did his Basic and OSUT at Fort Benning, Georgia, to be a Calvary Scout. After OSUT, McGibbon's duty station was Fort Riley, Kansas, where he was chosen to go to SUAS Raven School (SUAS-small unmanned aerial system). SGT McGibbon was deployed to Kuwait in June 2014, Operation

Enduring Freedom: Spartan Shield. The mission was to train Iraqi soldiers, as embedded training team. December 21, 2014, on a training mission in Kuwait, the up armored Humvee McGibbon was in rolled three times and threw him approximately 35 to 40 feet. McGibbon's injuries consisted of a very severe DAI, severe TBI, hematoma, right frontal lobe damage rendering him into a coma. Emergency craniotomy was done at a host nation hospital in Kuwait. He was then medevaced to Landstuhl , Germany. After being stabilized, SGT McGibbon was flown on January 1, 2015 with his family and medical team to Andrews Air Force Base and then on to Walter Reed. On January 15, 2015, McGibbon, still in a coma, was transferred to Hunter Holmes McGuire VA Hospital, Polytrauma unit in Richmond, Virginia. McGibbon emerged from his coma/consciousness on March 3, 2015. On August 11, 2015 he was transferred back to Walter Reed as part of the WTU and continued intense therapies in speech, physical, occupational also including music therapy, art therapy, and mindful mediation and many other therapies. On May 24, 2017, SGT McGibbon officially retired from the Army.

CAPT Moira G. McGuire is a U.S. Public Health Service nurse officer who has worked extensively with health disparities in behavioral health and oncology and more recently used her skills and experience to craft and enhance the care of our country's wounded, ill, and injured service members as program manager of Warrior Clinic. She currently serves as division chief of Ancillary Services and lead of Integrative Health & Wellness at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. She's a member of PHS Mental Health Team 3 and served as team commander from 2012 to 2015 during which she deployed and/or facilitated more than 12 deployments, including Hurricane Sandy, Sandy Hook School Shooting, Boston Marathon Bombing, Unaccompanied Children Mission, and Ebola. She established the Walter Reed Healing Arts Exhibit, is a founding member of the PHS Choral Ensemble, and is plank owner of the National Initiative for Arts & Health in the Military. She is the daughter of an opera singer/voice teacher father and pianist/painter/playwright mother who studied Irish dance, ballet, piano, violin, flute, and harp. Her professional work focuses on the belief that creativity and expression are not only essential in the treatment of illness and injury, but in the protection and prevention of them as well.

Bill O'Brien is senior advisor for innovation & director of Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network at the National Endowment for the Arts. O'Brien co-organized three summits to identify emerging art-science practices among the nation's leading artists, scientists, and technologists in partnership with the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities. He also co-organized a complex-system working group investigation into the nature of creativity in the brain in partnership with the Santa Fe Institute. Since 2011, Bill has served as the agency's project director for the National Endowment for the Arts' military healing partnerships, including Creative Forces. Previously, O'Brien served the agency as deputy chairman of Grants and Awards and as the director of Theater and Musical Theater. Prior to joining the NEA, he produced numerous award-winning theatrical productions, including the Tony-honored Deaf West Theatre Production of *Big River*. He has also acted in numerous theatrical and television productions, including performances in 48 states, and as an ensemble player on all seven seasons as Kenny (Marlee Matlin's sign language interpreter) on NBC's *The West Wing*.

AnnMarie O'Malley is the capacity and national resource center director for Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network. As the creator of the Creative Forces strategic plan, she provides operational assistance to the clinical and community programs and orchestrates the capacity building initiatives to support expansion of clinical therapy program and the development of the therapeutic community engagement program. O'Malley graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in 1996 with degrees in civil engineering and environmental engineering. She served as the deputy program management officer and lead engineer for the largest NATO construction program, worth more than \$550M, including nearly 100 construction projects recognized at the State Department level in multiple NATO Nations. During her honorable military service, O'Malley served in four named conflicts and was awarded various decorations and medals highlighting her leadership, courage, and work ethic. She specialized in advance team deployments and crises/risk management charged with initial set-up and site operations supporting military missions. O'Malley separated from the Air Force upon return from her last post-9/11 deployment in October 2002. As founding president of Innovative Executions, LLC, (INX), O'Malley offers tailored engineering, organizational, and leadership services to government, nonprofit, and corporate clients. She spent five years as a strategic advisor for the DoD and has experience providing services to several other federal agencies. In addition to her undergraduate degrees, O'Malley has a master of science in engineering and environmental management, a doctorate in engineering management, and a doctorate (pending) in management, organizational leadership. O'Malley's spouse is still active duty Air Force.

Major General Ronald J. Place hails from South Dakota, graduating from the University of South Dakota with a chemistry degree, and earning his doctor of medicine degree from Creighton University School of Medicine. MG Place completed his general surgery internship and residency training at Madigan Army Medical Center (MAMC), fellowship training in colon and rectal surgery at the University of Texas Southwestern in Dallas, and earned a master's degree in national security strategy (health strategy concentration) from the National War College. His surgical staff assignments include Martin Army Community Hospital at Ft. Benning, Georgia, MAMC and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center. MG Place's deployed as a general surgeon to Afghanistan twice, to Turkey as part of OIF-1, and Kosovo. He's commanded military hospitals at Fort Knox, KY and Fort Stewart, GA. MG Place's general officer assignments include Assistant Surgeon General (Force Projection) at the Office of the Surgeon General, transitioning to the MEDCOM Deputy Chief of Staff (Quality of Safety). After serving as the Commanding General of Regional Health Command -Atlantic, Army Medicine's largest Region, MG Place led the Military Health System NDAA 2017 Program Management Office. He now serves as the Director of the National Capital Region Medical Directorate as part of the Defense Health Agency. MG Place is board-certified in both general surgery and colorectal surgery, as Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences, and the author of more than 40 peer-reviewed articles and book chapters.

Sam Pressler is the founder and executive director of the Armed Services Arts Partnership (ASAP). He is a 2015 Echoing Green Global Fellow, 2016 Halcyon Fellow, and a 2017 30 Under 30 awardee from *Forbes* and *Pacific Standard* magazine. He was named to the HillVets 100 list as one of the 100 most

influential people in the veterans space, and has been recognized on We Are the Mighty's "Mighty 25" list of influences supporting the military community. Pressler graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude from the College of William & Mary in 2015, where he received degrees in government and finance. Pressler currently resides in Arlington, Virginia,.

Michael "Rod" Rodriguez is a retired Special Forces Green Beret with nine deployments, from his first in Somalia with 10th Mountain Division to his last in Afghanistan with 7th Special Forces Group. His last assignment was as a sniper instructor at Fort Bragg (Range 37) where he was medically retired after 21 years of continuous service for numerous injuries he received while in service to our great nation. He advocates for veterans and their families and speaks publicly on the need to decrease the misunderstanding between civilians and the military. He is a strong advocate for art and the impact it has on everyone's lives; he practices his very own in the form of metalwork and blacksmithing. He is the director for the Global War on Terror Memorial Foundation and in November 2015 Rodriguez was selected as a member for President George W. Bush's Military Service Initiative Advisory Council with the role of advising and supporting the President and leadership of the Bush Institute on key strategic and programming priorities in support of veterans and their families. He is also the executive ambassador for the Green Beret Foundation and is on the Veteran Advisory Council for the VA in North Carolina. Rodriguez was also inducted as a Fellow into the lauded "Explorers Club" based in Manhattan for his research efforts on traumatic brain injury and posttraumatic stress. He is currently a graduate student at Norwich University pursuing a master's degree in diplomacy.

Kathy Roth-Douquet is a founder and CEO of Blue Star Families, the nation's largest chapter nonprofit serving military families, reaching more than 1.5 million members of military families annually; a public speaker and frequent commentator on public affairs; and a practicing attorney. She also co-directs the Summit Institute, the nonprofit associated with Summit and Powder Mountain, Utah. Roth-Douquet previously served as a political appointee in the White House and Department of Defense, and has been awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service and the Chief of Staff of the Army Medal for Outstanding Civilian Service to the Army. The author of two critically-recognized books on public affairs, Roth-Douquet has appeared on the *Today Show*, *Fox and Friends*, CNN, and NPR; was a frequent contributor for *USA Today*; and is a frequent speaker at universities and conferences. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, serves on a number of civic boards, and has received a number of civic awards, including being a recipient of President George H.W. Bush's Daily Point of Light Award.

Laura A. Scanlan, consultant with the National Endowment for the Arts, formerly served as NEA's director of State and Regional Partnerships from 2009–2017. In that capacity, she provided direction concerning NEA funding and program assistance to the 56 state and jurisdictional arts agencies and the six regional arts agencies. Scanlan founded the consulting practice Creative Cultural Strategies in 2007, providing professional advisory services for nonprofit organizations in the cultural sector. Previously, she was senior vice president for fund development and marketing at the Delaware Community Foundation, comprised of 970 charitable funds, \$165 million in assets, and annual grants of over \$12 million. From

2001 to 2006 Scanlan served as director of the Delaware Division of the Arts, the state agency responsible for providing financial, technical, and promotional support for Delaware's cultural resources. She has served on the boards of the Mid Atlantic Arts Foundation, the Delaware Center for Contemporary Arts, the Delaware Theatre Company, the Greater Wilmington Convention and Visitors Bureau, and St. Michael's School. During her tenure at the Delaware Division of the Arts, she co-hosted the weekly radio show *Delaware State of the Arts*. Scanlan received her bachelor's degree at Mount Holyoke College and her master's degree in business administration at the Anderson School of Management at UCLA.

MSgt Michael Schneider USMC (ret) is owner, artist, and craftsman of leatherneck Leather Goods. Since Schneider's retirement, art and music have been key therapies in his recovery. The art of leather crafting has enabled him to go seizure free while he makes purses, satchels, belts, and many other leather goods. Schneider was a United States Marine for 21 years, joining in 1994 from his home town of Marquette, Michigan. While in the service he trained as a CH-46 and MV-22 crew chief. His duties included helicopter maintainer, aerial gunner, and weapons and tactics crew chief instructor. In his later career in the Marine Corps, Schneider was an aircraft maintenance chief—these duties included planning scheduled maintenance for aircraft and training personnel. During the last year of Schneider's career in the Marine Corps, he was receiving treatment at Walter Reed for injuries he sustained in 2005. He had one traumatic brain injury to this right brain and a central nervous system hit of decompression sickness on the left brain. Both these conditions left Schneider with the seizure condition. Medicine alone could not take care of all of Schneider's seizures; music was the key to stopping most of the seizure activity, and, along with his leather work, has continued to assist him in being seizure free.

Patricia Moore Shaffer is the deputy director for Research & Analysis at the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). In her role at the NEA, she oversees the agency's program evaluation and performance measurement in addition to supervising the agency's research team. She has led more than 50 research and evaluation studies ranging from national studies conducted for federal entities including the NEA, the Library of Congress, and NASA, to smaller-scale research and evaluation studies for arts nonprofits, state educational agencies, and school districts. Prior to her career in research and evaluation, Shaffer was an educator and administrator in art museums, including most recently the Morris Museum of Art (Georgia). She earned a PhD in educational policy, planning and leadership at the College of William & Mary and MA in curriculum studies at the University of Toronto, in addition to holding a BA in visual arts.

Major General Linda L. Singh was appointed as the 29th Adjutant General of Maryland on January 21, 2015, responsible for the daily operations of the Maryland Military Department. As The Adjutant General, she serves as the official channel of communication between the governor and the National Guard Bureau and serves as a member of the governor's cabinet. MG Singh received her commission in 1991 through Officer Candidate School at the Maryland Military Academy in Reisterstown, Maryland. Her military career spans more than 30 years of service in both the enlisted and officer ranks. She has served in staff and command assignments at every level, including deployed assignments in Kosovo and

a combat tour in Afghanistan supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. Her military decorations include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal and many more. MG Singh is a graduate of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the U.S. Army War College, where she received a master's degree in strategic studies. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from Columbia Union College, a master's degree in business administration, military management from Touro International University, a master's certificate in six sigma from Villanova University, is a graduate of the United States Northern Command Joint Task Force Commander's course and is a fellow from the International Women's Leadership program at Harvard University/INSEAD.

Ken Skrzysz serves as the executive director of the Maryland State Arts Council. From 2014-2017, Skrzysz was the coordinator of fine arts for the Maryland State Department of Education, where he shared his vision of creativity and collaboration as the driving forces of success for all students. His knowledge of all art forms, with a special emphasis of developing the creative and collaborative processes, has allowed him to build successful community partnerships, donor development campaigns, and recruitment programs with a special emphasis on serving economically challenged and culturally underserved populations. Skrzysz is an active master teacher of acting and dance throughout the United States. He has served as the performing and visual arts magnet teacher specialist for Anne Arundel County Public Schools, executive director of the Clear Space Theatre Company and Kinetics Dance Theatre, and the director of student life for the School of American Ballet. Ken has danced, sung, acted, choreographed and directed both nationally and internationally. He earned his master of fine arts in dance from the University of North Carolina-Greensboro and his bachelor of fine arts from Towson State University. Skrzysz's recognitions include the Baltimore Mayor's Award for Distinguished Service in the Arts, distinguished alumni awards from Towson State University and from the University of North Carolina, a choreography commission from the National Endowment of the Arts, and multiple choreography awards from the Maryland State Arts Council.

Ava Spece currently serves as president and CEO of the Workhouse Arts Foundation. She has spent the last 20+ years in administration of both nonprofit and for-profit organizations, in and outside of the arts field. Trained and credentialed first as a music educator, she taught in the public schools in the Northwest. From there she entered nonprofit service in the human services industry as director of the Institute of Cognitive Development, then moving into arts management, running first the DC Youth Orchestra Program, then the Visual Arts Center of Richmond, until accepting her current position at the Workhouse Arts Foundation. Spece has also been a strong voice for the need for arts administrators to focus on the fundamentals of business leadership, and has spoken to many academic and nonprofit groups about these priorities. Spece has served as board member of Virginians for the Arts, steering committee member of the DC Advocates for the Arts, and currently serves on the Fairfax County Arts Committee and the Master Arts Plan Task Force. Spece spearheaded the creation of the NOVA Arts and Cultural District in Northern Virginia, the state's first-ever multijurisdictional arts district. This has contributed to the surrounding community as a strong statement of the value of public-private partnership in the region, the value of the arts to bring communities together, and the power of the arts

to drive the economy of regions. Spece's youngest son is an active duty service member in the Air Force, currently stationed in Japan.

Amy Uptgraft is the founder of the nonprofit the Veteran's Spouse Project and co-playwright of the show *I Will Wait*. Uptgraft received her BA in theater performance from Purdue University. While living in New York City, she performed at the Public Theater in their renowned Shakespeare program, the Shakespeare Lab. She has performed in numerous productions including Honey in *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?*, Miranda in *The Tempest*, Brooke in *Noises Off*, Susie in *W;t*, Adam in *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)*, and Vladimir in *Waiting for Godot*. She ran a children's theater at Vive Les Arts Theatre in Killeen, Texas, and also taught at Cape Fear Regional Theatre in Fayetteville, North Carolina, as well as for KidStage out of Denver, Colorado. Uptgraft is currently performing in *I Will Wait* and teaching theater in Anchorage, Alaska, where she currently resides. Uptgraft is a proud military spouse of 19 years. Her husband, LTC Jamie Uptgraft is the commander of 1-501 INF (ABN) out of JBER, Alaska, and is currently deployed with his unit to Afghanistan in support of Operation Resolute Support. Uptgraft is actively involved in various Army volunteer organizations.

Margaret Vanderhye is the executive director of the Virginia Commission for the Arts, a position she was appointed to by Governor Terry McAuliffe in March, 2014. She is responsible for overseeing the grant funding for arts organizations throughout the Commonwealth. She served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 2008-2010 representing the 34th District (McLean, Great Falls, and parts of Herndon and Vienna). Until her election, she served for five years on the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority as an appointee of Governors Mark Warner and Tim Kaine. Vanderhye has extensive experience in state and national government. She served for six years as a Presidential appointee to the National Capital Planning Commission during the Clinton administration. Vanderhye chaired the commission's Joint Memorials and Museums Task Force, which developed a nationally award-winning master plan for monuments, memorials, and museums. Vanderhye is a 2006 graduate of the University of Virginia's Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership and currently serves on their state board. Vanderhye's professional background is in national security and economics. She is a former special assistant for public affairs at the National Security Council. She has a BA in political science from Northwestern University and a MA in economics and international relations from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies.

Major Ryan Vangel is a United States Army Green Beret serving in the West Virginia National Guard. In June 2017, he sustained traumatic injuries to his head, heart, and spine, and is now serving on active duty for rehabilitation. Major Vangel is assigned to the Warrior Transition Battalion at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, and receives a majority of his physical, occupational, and behavioral therapies through the National Intrepid Center of Excellence. In his civilian career, Major Vangel works for the Georgia Tech Research Institute and leads a team of engineers in research and analysis of emerging technologies for the Army's Rapid Equipping Force.

The Veteran's Spouse Project (VSP) is a nonprofit established in 2018 in Anchorage, Alaska, that works to create a forum for veterans' spouses across the generations to connect, feel heard, and have an opportunity to share their side of the story. VSP is currently run by a staff of six military spouses who are utilizing their expertise in various fields in support of the project. VSP consists of *I Will Wait*, a touring performance art piece, and *Made for You*, an expressive arts workshop for veterans' spouses. Using actual spouses' experiences, *I Will Wait* weaves these stories together through music, dance, and drama. *Made for You* is the expressive arts workshop arm of VSP. It creates space for spouses to reflect and explore their inner journey as a veteran's spouse through expressive arts. VSP tours around the country performing *I Will Wait* to both military and civilian audiences alike, helping to bridge the gap between the two. *Made for You* is also offered over the weekend of performances to local veterans' spouses of all generations to promote sharing and healing. VSP recently finished a weekend run in Anchorage, Alaska, and is looking to expand their project to the DC and San Diego areas this fall. VSP is currently supported in part by the Atwood Foundation and the Alaska Humanities Forum.

The Veterans Writing Project, founded by veterans and family members, believes that every veteran has a story. But some of us need a little help telling that story. So the project provides no-cost writing seminars and workshops for veterans, service members, and their adult family members. It is also building an archive of writing by members of the military community and publishes a quarterly literary review and an ongoing scroll of writing on the site, O-Dark-Thirty. The project has three goals. The first is literary: there is a new wave of great literature coming and that much of that will be written by veterans and their families. The next is social. We have in the United States right now the smallest-ever proportion of our population in service during a time of war, and the project aims to put as many of their stories in front of as many readers as possible. Finally, writing is therapeutic. Returning warriors have known for centuries the healing power of narrative. The project provides veterans the skills they need to capture their stories and do so in an environment of mutual trust and respect. Seminars are led by working writers who hold MA or MFA writing degrees and who are, perhaps most importantly, themselves veterans. The Veterans Writing Project has a number of different models, including a two-day intensive seminar, a six- or fourteen-week workshop, and customizable workshops for fiction, non-fiction, poetry, or playwriting. The project seeks to bring the programs to places where veterans are, and particularly to underserved areas around the country.

Melissa Walker is the healing arts program coordinator at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, a directorate of Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and lead art therapist for Creative Forces: NEA Military Healing Arts Network. Walker works with active duty service members suffering from traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions. Dedicated to helping recovering military service members safely express their deep thoughts and emotions in a creative environment, Walker has helped develop the Healing Arts Program at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence since 2010. She and her team engage patients in creative arts therapies, powerful treatments for helping them express their invisible wounds. Masks made by service members as part of the NICoE art therapy program were highlighted in a 2015 edition of *National Geographic* Magazine, and the program is also

highlighted in Walker's 2016 TED talk. Walker received her master's degree in art therapy from New York University.

Marete A. Wester, joined the staff of Americans for the Arts, the nation's leading nonprofit organization advancing the arts and arts education in America, in April of 2006 after more than 25 years as a nonprofit arts and arts education manager, consultant, educator, and writer. As senior director of arts policy she is responsible for the development of cross-sector policy issues and related strategic alliances nationally and internationally. Among her primary current focus areas include arts and military/veterans issues, international engagement, as well as public health, healthcare, and the environment. During her tenure, she has helped develop and launch several of Americans for the Arts' signature policy forums, including the annual National Arts Policy Roundtable in partnership with the Sundance Institute. She helped initiate and now facilitates and manages the National Initiative for Arts and Health in the Military—an effort that brings all branches of the U.S. military in collaboration with civilian agencies to advance the policy, practice, and quality use of arts and creativity as tools for health for all active duty military, staff, family members, veterans, and their caregivers. She represents Americans for the Arts on the U.S. Department of State's National Council for UNESCO. She holds a bachelor's degree in music performance from Wilkes University, Pennsylvania, and a master's degree in arts administration from Drexel University in Philadelphia. Wester serves as Americans for the Arts project director for Creative Forces.

Allison F. Winters is a board-certified dance/movement therapist, licensed creative arts therapist, and registered yoga instructor. She holds master's degrees in psychology and dance/movement therapy and is currently pursuing a doctorate in mind-body medicine at Saybrook University. As a clinician, Winters has worked with a wide range of clientele, including adults, adolescents, and children in inpatient psychiatry, and U.S. military war veterans in both residential and outpatient settings. She can be seen discussing her work with military members in dance/movement therapy with veterans and military personnel, part of the American Dance Therapy Association's ADTA Talks series. Winters' research, "Emotion, Embodiment, and Mirror Neurons in Dance/Movement Therapy: A Connection Across Disciplines," has received awards for both research and journalism. Currently, she coordinates the wellness program at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, an integrative treatment program for service members with traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Megan Wong is a board-certified neurologic music therapist. She received her bachelor's degree in music performance from Westmont College in Santa Barbara, California, and her master's degree in music therapy from Colorado State University. She was also the principal violist for the Colorado State University Symphony, Opera, and Sinfonia Orchestras and the violist of the Graduate String Quartet. Wong completed her music therapy internship at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, where she worked with medically ill children and their families, before becoming the director of the Semper Sound military music therapy program with Resounding Joy, Inc. in San Diego, California. Wong's passion for working with service members and veterans brought her to the Intrepid Spirit Center Fort Belvoir in August 2017.

She has also provided music therapy services for children with developmental disabilities and older adults with Alzheimer's and dementia, and has worked with patients with a range of diagnoses, including terminal illness, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and substance abuse. Additionally, Wong is a registered yoga teacher and incorporates music-facilitated meditation, movement, and breathing exercises into her clinical approach as a music therapist.

LCDR Amy Zaycek, Nurse Corps, United States Navy, is a public health nurse stationed at the James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, North Chicago, Illinois, where she previously served as the Department Head for Public Health, managing health and prevention programs for 40,000 annual Navy recruits, active duty, veteran, and beneficiary populations. She most recently returned from Continuing Promise 2018. LCDR Zaycek previously earned a BS in biology from the University of South Carolina, completed a BS in nursing from Marymount University, and most recently finished her master of public health focusing in global health at UCLA. Her Navy career has taken to many duty stations, including Naval Medical Center San Diego, Naval Health Clinic Bahrain, Naval Medical Center Portsmouth, and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMC), Bethesda. Throughout her career she has served in many roles: staff nurse, clinic nurse manager, special assistant, and a flag aide to the command of WRNMMC. She has been dedicated to operational medical deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom to Djibouti with the Expeditionary Medical Facility. She also deployed to Afghanistan with 1st Medical Battalion, Alpha Surgical Company as a shock trauma platoon nurse, earning the designation of Fleet Marine Force Qualified Officer. She has also supported other operational missions, including Continuing Promise '17 and Pacific Partnership '17, as a global health nurse.