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## American Healing Arts Foundation Seeks Veterans for Free Art Classes at Arizona Fine Art EXPO

*New not-for-profit organization provides drawing, painting, and sculpting classes to Veterans throughout Arizona Fine Art EXPO's 10-week run*

(SCOTTSDALE) – American Healing Arts Foundation (AHAF), a new **Arizona nonprofit organization, in collaboration with the Amigos Foundation, a 501(c)3 tax exempt organization** is seeking U.S. Veterans of all ages to participate in free art classes at **Thunderbird Artists' Arizona Fine Art EXPO** during its 10-week run in north Scottsdale.

Judith Combs, president and CEO of the award-winning Thunderbird Artists, founded AHAF with the hopes of helping Veterans cope with the emotional and physical scars of war.

"We're providing free art classes and workshops to Veterans who have faced combat stress, life threatening traumas or just devoted years of their lives to serving our country," Combs said. "Art classes are proven to be good therapy for the mind, body and soul. The men and woman serving our country have a great need to release their war memories, even if it is only a temporary escape. Our goal is that by the end of 10 weeks, that temporary escape will turn into self satisfaction, inspiration and move their mind outside the box – the one that holds those ugly war memories."

Combs said she was saddened to learn how many U.S. Veterans are homeless in the Valley.

"It is a disgrace that many of these men and women who served our country so valiantly are out on the streets," she said. "We need to come together as a community to help them overcome depression and rebuild their lives."

The free classes will take place during the week and will be taught by EXPO participating artists, including sculptor Hal Stewart and painters Donna Levine and Beth Zink. The American Healing Arts Foundation is also seeking volunteers to help with various tasks, including computer work, fund-raising, and driving Veterans to and from classes. In addition, AHAF is seeking art supply donations as well as volunteer teaching assistants, including some with medical experience.



In what has come to be known as one of Arizona's best venues for collecting fine art, Arizona Fine Art EXPO features 100 renowned artists from throughout the country, many of whom create original pieces of fine art daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Sunday, March 28. Arizona Fine Art EXPO is located in the "festive white tents" at 26540 N. Scottsdale Road, on the southwest corner of Scottsdale and Jomax Roads. Season passes cost \$8; admission for seniors and military is \$7; and children under 12 are free. Parking is free. For details or to learn more about the free art classes for Veterans, call **(480) 837-5637** or visit [www.ArizonaFineArtEXPO.com](http://www.ArizonaFineArtEXPO.com).

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*The American Healing Arts Foundation is currently operating its programs for Vets under the umbrella of the Amigos Foundation, an Arizona non profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. The Amigos Foundation currently provides housing and other assistance to the homeless, which includes many Veterans. The American Healing Arts Foundation is an equal opportunity tutor and welcomes diversity. The Foundation does not discriminate against qualified individuals with disabilities, nor on the basis of gender, race, color, sexuality, national or ethnic origin, or religion. The EXPO is handicap accessible.*