Reaching military & veterans in New Hampshire
What we are learning . . .
New Hampshire’s population = 1.3 million
Of which, 130,000 are Veterans representing 10% of the population

NH has no active duty military bases.

Our veterans are . . .

• Reservists
• National Guard
In researching how to reach Veterans & connect them to the arts, we started with what we know has worked . . .
Our connections with the NH Veterans home . . .
Percent for Art Project for dementia wing of the NH Veterans Home - *Windows Home* by Gordon Carlisle
Percent for Art Project for the atrium of the NH Veterans Home; *New Hampshire Landscape* by Sheldon Cassady
Arts in Health Care Project Grant;
Weaving & drumming for residents of the NH Veterans Home
New Hampshire participates in the National Blue Star Museums program with 46 participating museums!

- Millyard Museum
- Castle in the Clouds
- American Independence Museum
- Enfield Shaker Museum
- Currier Museum of Art
- NH Historical Society
- Remick Country Doctor Museum & Farm
- The Fells
- Mariposa Museum
- Strawberry Banke Museum
- McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center
- Mt Kearsarge Indian Museum
- New Hampshire Farm Museum
And added what what we heard . . .
We heard in on NPR . . .

The Guitars for Vets project

www.guitarsforvets.org
We heard in on NPR . . .
General John Borling’s poems from Hanoi imprisonment, composed in Morse code

The west was a patch work of color flung over a racing sky...

Now in a commemorative hardcover edition from Master Wings Publishing, LLC, TAPS ON THE WALLS is a remarkable and unique testament to the courage and resilience of the American spirit published concurrent with the 40th Anniversary of the release of the Hanoi Hilton inmates. Each piece is a resounding expression of freedom, originally committed to memory and shared with fellow prisoners only in code, a testament to one patriotic soldier’s determination to keep his connection to country, family, and to his fellow servicemen. Foreword by Senator John McCain.

TAPS ON THE WALLS:
Poems from the Hanoi Hilton
by John Borling, Major General, USAF, Ret.

How did a prisoner of war survive six years and eight months of soul-crushing imprisonment in the Hanoi Hilton during the Vietnam War? By writing poetry. And how did he do it without pencil or paper?
And then, we launched into more research . . .
Strategic planning focus group discussion with . . .

- NH Easter Seals Veterans Count program
The Currier Museum of Arts, host of the exhibit . .
• Artist and advocate Peggo Hodes

© Vibrant Voice Workshops

Vibrant Voice workshops are fantastic for:

- Singers seeking to expand their skills and explore a more vibrant performance.
- People who want to open up their creativity.
- Artists and musicians who want to access their deeper artistic voice.
- "Non-singers" who always wanted to sing.
- People who want to learn to express themselves more effectively.
- Anyone eager to grow and expand personally.

Please check the Events Listings for current Workshops being offered.
Followed by one-to-one meetings with

- The NH State Office of Veterans Services . . .
Family Program Support Services of the NH National Guard

FAMILY PROGRAM SUPPORT SERVICES

The New Hampshire National Guard Family Program is established to increase communication among families, Guard members, Units and the National Guard Leadership and increase and maintain NHNG Family Readiness. Through the Family Assistance Support Centers, Family Readiness Support (FRSA and A&FRP) and Youth Coordinator we:

- Improve family awareness and understanding of the NG structure, its missions, goals, objectives, activities, and initiatives.
- Develop programs that improve and maintain the quality of life for the Guard member and their family.
- Inform active service members' families of the existence and nature of benefits and entitlement through all stages of the member's career.
- Develop and train Family Readiness Groups
- Provide essential services to Guard families through all phases of mobilization, and during annual training periods, in designated Family Assistance Locations.
- Encourage family members to participate in Volunteer programs, unit social, recreational and ceremonial events.
We realized the big question is: what can we build, so they will want to participate . . . ?
The military cultivates a culture of pride & self-reliance
We have heard consistently that families matter . . .
This is leading us to explore pilot partnerships with:

- National Guard **Family** Services
- Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program
• NH Office of Veterans Services Vet to Vet program
NH Office of Veterans & NH Corrections
NEW “Diversion & Alternative Sentencing program” for Vets
Department of Agriculture & the promotion of “Military Appreciation Days” at farm stands with added arts activities.
• And . . . becoming an Information Hub
There’s a big network out there to help …

The arts can be part of it, because

is just not enough . . .