

MEDIA RELEASE

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Arts Council opens two new exhibits (one live, one online) next week

Westminster High School's WWII veterans remembered in new exhibit

While the theater at the Carroll Arts Center is not yet allowed to open, their Tevis Gallery will soon house their first in-person exhibit since the COVID-19 shutdown. Entitled "WWII: The Soldiers from Westminster," this exhibition features the graduation photos of Westminster High School students who served in World War II. The exhibit is free and open to the public during the Arts Council's business hours from June 29 – August 3. Health and safety precautions, including face coverings, will continue to be in place.

Over 650 students from Westminster High School served their country during World War II, covering every branch of the military and every major engagement of the war. Two dozen WHS students were killed, over 60 suffered physical wounds, and several were captured and held as Prisoners of War. Many came home with wounds that were not visible. This exhibit brings these hometown heroes' stories to light in honor of their service. The show will also feature two art installations: one featuring World War II era advertisements and film clips and a floor installation using 1,000 classic toy soldiers. The exhibit will be displayed in a way that ensures patrons can maintain social distancing.

This exhibit is made possible by the research of Steve Bowersox, a 3rd generation Westminster High School graduate who has been a U.S. History teacher at WHS since 2002. He also spent two years in the United States Army before attending college. Says Bowersox, "I am very happy to be able to showcase the Greatest Generation graduates of Westminster High School and at the same time, I am disappointed that I do not have photographs of the over 250 students, who for a variety of reasons did not graduate, but also participated in the war."

This exhibit is free and open to the public during the Arts Council's business hours of 10 – 4 on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and 10 – 7 on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Get more information at CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org or by calling the box office at 410-848-7272. The Carroll Arts Center is located at 91 West Main Street in Downtown Westminster.

CCAC online exhibit explores creativity in the time of COVID-19

The Carroll County Arts Council's newest online catalog exhibit, "Quarantined: Creating While Stuck," features a variety of artworks made during the current COVID-19 shutdown. Each artist uses their work to tell a personal story about the impact of the shutdown. This exhibit will be available to view on the Arts Council's website from June 30 – August 31.

When the world seemed to shut down, the artists featured in this exhibit seized the opportunity to further embrace their creativity. Some artists used their extra time at home to finally start a long-planned project, others turned to art to cope with this unpredictable period. The chosen pieces show that inspiration during a pandemic can come in all forms. Featuring paintings, multimedia, mosaics, and even some poetry, this exhibit encapsulates this significant moment in time.

This juried exhibit features over 40 artists, a fraction of the total submissions. “There was an immense response to the call for this show,” says CCAC Education and Visual Arts Coordinator, Moriah Tyler, “It really illuminated what I already knew: that the arts are where most of us find comfort during difficult times.”

This exhibit will be free to view on CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org.

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CALENDAR LISTING (please list under Exhibit or related category)

“WWII: The Soldiers from Westminster.” June 29 – August 3. An exhibition featuring the graduation photos of Westminster High School students who served in World War II. Free entry. Carroll Arts Center, 91 W Main Street, Westminster, MD 21157. [410-848-7272](tel:410-848-7272). More info at CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org.

CALENDAR LISTING (please list under Exhibit, Online Event, or related category)

“Quarantined: Creating While Stuck.” June 30 – August 31. Online catalog exhibit featuring a variety of works made during the COVID-19 pandemic. Free. View at CarrollCountyArtsCouncil.org.

PHOTO CREDIT: “My Corona” by Vicki Mayo.