

TO: Editors, Feature Writers and Event Listings

SUBJECT: Art Related Special Events

DATE: September 29, 2017

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Exhibit Title: Honoring Our Veterans**

Exhibit dates: Sept. 30 to Nov. 11, 2017

Closing Reception: Nov. 11, from 2 to 4 p.m.

## **Lowell gallery partners with Ironstone Farm to present ‘Honoring Our Veterans’ exhibition**

Lowell, Mass. – Two nonprofit organizations are working together to organize a special veteran-themed exhibition this fall. Artwork accepted will be inspired by veteran-related subjects such as art by veterans, art of veterans, military images, veterans’ activities after service, and veteran programs. The exhibition includes painting, mixed media, works on paper, and photography. The winner of Best in Show will receive a \$200 cash prize.

The Equine Encounters/Veterans Experience program at Ironstone Farm in Andover uses horses to help veterans adjust to their non-combat and/or post-military lives.

“We at Ironstone love the opportunity to partner with The Brush to bring veterans’ stories to our community through art. You never know when you have an artist in your midst – this collaboration will help us find out,” said Deedee O’Brien, Ironstone Farm executive director.

**About the Juror:** Steven Lush is a Signature Member of the American Watercolor Society, the Transparent Watercolor Society of America, and the American Society of Marine Artists. His art is part of many private and corporate collections throughout the United States and Italy, including the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston; the Museum of America and the Sea, Mystic Seaport, Mystic, Conn.; the Coast Guard Art Program (COGAP); The Heritage Asset Collection at the Coast Guard Academy, New London, Conn.; the Stevens Memorial Library, North Andover, Mass.; the Noble Maritime Museum, Staten Island, N.Y.; and the Customs House Maritime Museum, Newburyport, Mass.

**About Ironstone Farm:** Employing horses in a working farm environment, Ironstone Farm provides beneficial therapy for people with a wide range of physical, emotional and cognitive disabilities. It is home to two nonprofit organizations: Challenge Unlimited and Ironstone Therapy. Both use the horse's unique ability to enhance a person's movements and touch a person's heart, inspiring strength, hope and encouragement. The farm's professional staff of over 20 licensed instructors and therapists work with about 30 program horses and about 200 volunteers to serve about 450 children and adults each week, year-round. Coming from more than 90 cities and towns throughout Massachusetts and New Hampshire, participants enjoy the aesthetic beauty of the farm while receiving valuable therapy in collaboration with other service providers to best address their physical and emotional needs.

Ironstone provides therapeutic riding, recreational riding and hippotherapy, which uses a horse to help provide physical and occupational therapies and speech/language pathology.

**The Brush Art Gallery and Studios** is located in the Lowell National Historical Park across the courtyard from the Visitor Center. This dynamic and captivating place was originally founded by the Lowell Historic Preservation Commission, U.S. Department of the Interior. The Brush presents museum quality exhibitions, educational programs, and has collaborated with many other nonprofit groups. Artists occupy studio spaces to interact with and educate the public on a weekly basis. Studio artists produce paintings, illustration, photography, jewelry, sculpture, ceramics, quilts, and handwoven items. Associate artists display work in the common area. The Brush Art Gallery and Studios is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization. **The Brush is supported by the Lowell National Historical Park and Eastern National.**

**QUESTIONS:** For more information or inquiries, please contact Jim Dymont, executive director, Brush Art Gallery and Studios, at (978) 459-7819 or via email at [brushdirector@gmail.com](mailto:brushdirector@gmail.com).