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Silver Dollar City Master Craftsman Wins First Place in National Arts Competition

Branson, MO (06/2011) Silver Dollar City Master Craftsman and US Veteran Todd Nelson has won first place in the Glasswork category of the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival Competition. The award was announced June 16th at Veterans Health Care Systems of the Ozarks in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Nelson, who served in the US Marine Corps from 1968-1970, entered his blown glass piece "Nocturnal Vision," a tall vase displaying brilliant colors on a dark background. His work was chosen from 3,000 entries, and will be featured at the Festival in Fayetteville this October.

Nelson, who lives in Forsyth, has been a Master Craftsman at Silver Dollar City for over 25 years and is a Master Glass Blower at Hazel's Blown Glass Shop. He specializes in color infused vases and encased designs which are very popular in the shop.

Nelson's most notable piece is the 400-globe blown glass chandelier showcased in the Culinary & Craft School at Silver Dollar City. The chandelier is made of individually blown, teardrop shaped amber, gold and orange bulbs, formed in a larger teardrop sculpture, a one-of-a-kind design.

Nelson demonstrates glassblowing at Hazel's Blown Glass Factory. Silver Dollar City, proclaimed the Home of American Craftsmanship by the US Congress, features over 100 craftsmen who demonstrate America's heritage crafts. Silver Dollar City offers seven festivals and events throughout the year--including the National Harvest Festival when traveling craftsmen visit to display their work--more than 30 rides and attractions, shows and home-style food, all at the 1880s-style theme park in Branson, Missouri open March-December.

Information on Silver Dollar City can be found at www.silverdollarcity.com or 800-831-4FUN(386).

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