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Humanities
Center

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Minnesota Humanities Center Honors Veterans through their Written Works in 2019 Veterans' Voices Award

Sept. 6, 2019 — ST. PAUL, Minn. — Now in its seventh year, the Minnesota Humanities Center's (MHC) Veterans' Voices Award will recognize nine new awardees. These Veterans have been selected for their excellence in writing – sharing their experiences of being a Veteran through poetry, prose, essays, memoirs, and more. From dozens of submissions, five “On-the-Rise” Veterans (under 40) and four “Legacy” Veterans (age 40 and over) were selected to receive the 2019 Veterans' Voices Award by an independent review panel of their peers.

The 2019 Veterans' Voices Awardees are:

“On-the-Rise” Awardees

Jessi Faue (Minneapolis), **Jessica Kieran** (Mounds View), **Kendra Vande Kamp** (Rochester), **Kristin Anderson** (Roseville), **Suzanne Krasnow** (Maple Lake).

“Legacy” Awardees

Clyde Lewandowski (St. Cloud), **George Colburn** (St. Paul), **Larry Johnson** (Golden Valley), **Ret. Col. Laura Ludwig** (Plymouth).

This year's award represents a new format for the honor. The 2019 awards put the focus and intent of the honor squarely in the humanities, which are an often overlooked tool in bridging the Veteran-civilian divide and helping Veterans reintegrate back into society. Literature, narrative, and story are integral in helping Veterans be a truly seen, heard, and valued part of society.

MHC will present the awards at the Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony on Saturday, Oct. 5, 2019 at the Union Depot in St. Paul. The event will be a moving and memorable opportunity to hear the awardees share their submitted works in their own voices in front of a live audience. A networking gallery of Veterans' organizations, discussion with awardees about their work, and remarks from MHC CEO, Kevin Lindsey will also be features of the evening. The event is \$15 which includes parking, non-alcoholic beverages, and appetizers. Everyone is welcome.

The Veterans' Voices Award is part of the Humanities Center's Veterans' Voices program that seeks to bridge the Veteran-civilian divide by drawing on the power of the humanities to call attention to the contributions, and often-missed stories, of Veterans. This program empowers all Minnesota Veterans to speak in their own voices through storytelling, literature, discussion groups, and more – amplifying the voices of Veterans throughout our state.

“Amplifying the voices of Minnesota's Veterans through this award and the Veterans' Voices program is truly an honor for the Humanities Center,” says MHC CEO, Kevin Lindsey. “At MHC we believe that all voices deserve to be heard in their own authenticity – especially those who have been absented or marginalized from public awareness. Through the humanities, Veterans can share their experiences and connect with others. Congratulations to all the 2019 awardees, and thank you for sharing your voices.”

For more information about the Veterans' Voices Award and to register for the event, visit <https://mnhum.org/vets/award/>. To learn more about this year's awardees visit <https://mnhum.org/blog/2019-veterans-voices-awardees-announced/>.

About the Minnesota Humanities Center:

Founded in 1971, the **Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC)** is a statewide nonprofit organization and full-service event center located in St. Paul, Minnesota. The Humanities Center offers a new way to think about our future, grounded in the humanities, and collaborates with organizations and individuals to develop programs that facilitate and

frame conversations and strengthen connections. The Humanities Center works to bring into public life the authentic voices of all people, especially those that have been absent or marginalized. The Humanities Center is a resource for the state of Minnesota and is affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities. More information about the Humanities Center is available at mnhum.org or join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the National Endowment for the Humanities:

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: www.neh.gov.

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