



Minnesota
Humanities
Center

Minnesota Humanities Center Opens Submissions for 2020 Veterans' Voices Award

For Immediate Release

February 6, 2020—ST. PAUL, Minn.— The Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) is pleased to announce that submissions for their 2020 [Veterans' Voices Award](#) are now being accepted. Submissions will be open through July 31, 2020.

Over the past seven years MHC has honored more than 140 Veterans who have contributed in significant ways to their communities, state, and country. The 2020 Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony will continue to honor the outstanding work of Minnesota's Veterans through Veterans' stories in their own words. By sharing their personal stories through poetry, prose, essays, memoirs, and more, Veterans find their voice, process their experiences, and connect with others. MHC intends to recognize up to 10 Veteran writers at this year's award ceremony that will be held at The Wilder Center in St. Paul on Saturday, October 10, 2020. MHC invites Veterans living in Minnesota to submit poetry, prose, essays, and memoirs for consideration.

"The personal stories shared by Veterans last year were powerful and stirred emotions among everyone in attendance," said Kevin Lindsey, CEO of Minnesota Humanities. "We cannot wait to see how this year's submissions will spark dialog, change perceptions, actualize healing, and deepen understanding."

The Humanities Center encourages Veterans to attend one of four free [Warrior Writers Workshops](#), prior to submitting work, that will be held around greater Minnesota from April 22 to July 9, 2020. Attendance is not mandatory and will not influence the selection process, but is encouraged. MHC will hold Warrior Writers Workshops in the following communities:

- St. Paul, Minnesota Humanities Center, April 23
- Mankato, Blue Earth County Historical Society, May 7
- Rochester, Cascade Meadow (St. Mary's University), June 4
- Duluth, Lake Superior College, July 9

Story submissions for the awards will focus on one (or more) of the eight topics that frame the Veterans' Voices program: Combat & Non-Combat, Duty, Family, Motivation, Perceptions, Reintegration, Service, and Transformation. An independent panel will review submitted writings and make award recommendations to the Humanities Center. We will honor up to ten Veteran writers (and their pieces) at the Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony in St. Paul on Saturday, October 10, 2020.

“This year we will continue the shift that was made last year to highlight stories from Veterans around the state,” said Blake Rondeau, Veterans’ Voices Program Officer. “We received many comments about the power of hearing directly from Veterans, and we want to continue that work and encourage Veterans to speak up and be heard. Minnesota has many talented Veteran writers and storytellers and we want to highlight *all stories* and backgrounds of the Veterans that live here.”

For more information on the Veterans’ Voices program, details about the Veterans’ Voices Award [guidelines and submission](#), and how to register for upcoming Warrior Writers Workshops, visit mnhum.org/veterans-voices.

About the Minnesota Humanities Center

The Humanities Center connects our past, present, and future by bringing people together to increase understanding and spark change. Using story as a catalyst and the humanities to explore the question of what it means to be human, MHC seeks to create a just society that is curious, connected, and compassionate. MHC, founded in 1971, is a statewide nonprofit organization affiliated with and supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. MHC operates a full-service Event Center in a historic building on St. Paul’s East Side. More information available at mnhum.org.

###

Media Contact: Jeni Gregory, Director of Development, Minnesota Humanities Center, jeni@mnhum.org, 651-772-4262

Veterans’ Voices Contact: Blake Rondeau, Veterans’ Voices Program Officer, blake@mnhum.org, 651-772-4248

