



For IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Minnesota Humanities Center Announces Sebastian Junger as Keynote Speaker for 2018 Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony

Internationally acclaimed author and journalist visits Minnesota to honor Veterans

July 18, 2018—SAINT PAUL, Minn. — The Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) is thrilled to announce that award-winning author, Sebastian Junger, will be giving the keynote address at the 2018 Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony on Sunday, October 7, 2018.

Sebastian Junger is the internationally acclaimed, best-selling author of "WAR," "The Perfect Storm," "A Death in Belmont," and "Fire." He is also the acclaimed director of the documentaries "Restrepo" and "Korengal." As a contributing editor to Vanity Fair and as a contributor to ABC News, he has covered major international news stories and has been awarded the National Magazine Award and an SAIS Novartis Prize for Journalism. Junger's latest book, "Tribe: On Homecoming and Belonging," takes readers on an investigation of the experiences of veterans and proposes that a major cause of pain is not being at war, but coming home.

Now in its sixth year, the Veterans' Voices Award recognizes former and actively serving Minnesota Veterans who are making significant contributions to their communities and are exemplary humanists. These Veterans also embody the Humanities Center's mission: "to build a thoughtful, literate, and engaged society," and values: to build and strengthen relationships, recognize the power of story and danger of absence, learn from and with multiple voices, and amplify community solutions for change.



These awards are part of the Humanities Center's Veterans' Voices program that draws 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, art, theater, discussion groups, and more – amplifying the voices of Veterans throughout our state and helping to bridge the Veteran-civilian divide.

"The Humanities Center is honored to be able to bring Sebastian Junger to Minnesota as our Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony keynote speaker," says MHC President & CEO, David O'Fallon. "As a prolific and accomplished writer and journalist, Sebastian is a true humanities hero and lives as a testament to how important the work of the humanities are in this present age. His mission to share the stories of Veterans and war with his fellow civilians is a shining example of our intention for this award, and our Veterans' Voices program, to help bridge the Veteran-civilian divide. We couldn't be more pleased to have him here."

The Veterans' Voices Awards are a statewide effort with awardees representing Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Prior Lake, Inver Grover Heights, Mankato, Frazee, Waconia, Bemidji, Buffalo, Farmington, Coon Rapids, Big Lake, Chisholm, Mankato, Stillwater, Cloquet, and Mendota Heights in 2017 alone. Since 2013, MHC's Veterans' Voices Awards have recognized 126 Minnesota Veterans—from a sitting state Senator, to a Muslim community leader, a sexual-assault survivor, to a middle school teacher—and everyone in between.

Pre-registration for the 2018 Veteran's Voices Award Ceremony is now open. The ceremony is free and open to the public, but registration is required and seating is limited.

The Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony is made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund from the State of Minnesota. Sebastian Junger's keynote appearance is made possible by a private donation.

The Minnesota Humanities Center is a 501c3 non-profit and relies on the generous [donations](#) of its supporters and participants.

For more information on the Veterans' Voices program as well as details about how to pre-register for the event, visit <https://mnhum.org/vets/award/>. Download our [Media Kit](#).

About the Minnesota Humanities Center:

Founded in 1971, the **Minnesota Humanities Center** is a statewide nonprofit organization and full service event center located in Saint 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.

The mission of the Minnesota Humanities Center is to build a thoughtful, literate, and engaged society. More information about the Humanities Center is available at mnhum.org or join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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