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For Immediate Release

Minnesota Humanities Center Accepting Nominations for 2017 Veterans' Voices Award

March 3, 2017—ST. PAUL, Minn.—The Minnesota Humanities Center is now accepting nominations for its 2017 *Veterans' Voices Award*, which recognizes, amplifies, and honors Minnesotans who have honorably served and are making extraordinary contributions to their communities. These actively engaged former and current military service members are thriving and go above and beyond to make significant positive contributions that improve the lives of people across Minnesota. [Veterans' Voices](#) is a fast growing, statewide program of the Humanities Center that is changing the narrative of Veterans. This program draws on the power of the humanities to explore and share the full life experiences of Veterans. It empowers Minnesota Veterans to speak in their own voices through plays, discussion groups, literature, and the *Veterans' Voices Award*.

The Humanities Center invites nominations of candidates who fall into one of two categories: On the Rise (40 and under) or Legacy (over 40). The *Veterans' Voices Award* honors actively engaged former and current military service members who are thriving and making significant, positive contributions that improve the lives of people across Minnesota. Award nominations will be accepted today through May 19, 2017.

The *Veterans' Voices Award*, now in its fifth year, will be presented to Veterans at the *Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony* to be held at the *Anderson Student Center* on the campus of *St. Thomas University* in St. Paul on September 11, 2017. WCCO-TV reporter and Veteran, Reg Chapman, will again emcee this event. Past award presenters include Governor Mark Dayton and Retired Major General Larry Shellito, Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs.

According to David O'Fallon, President of the Minnesota Humanities Center, "Now in its fifth year, the *Veterans' Voices Award* has been presented to over 100 Minnesota Veterans for their outstanding commitment to their local communities, schools, and workplaces. This award is a chance to recognize men and women Veterans from across Minnesota for their outstanding leadership and contributions."

Since 9/11/2001 more than 50,000 men and women from Minnesotans have been deployed and returned home from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. These Veterans are our neighbors; neighbors who defended the freedom of all Americans.

Shelby Hadley, a *Veterans' Voices* awardee from Rice, Minnesota, found affirmation of her service through this award. "Is my story enough? I, like many Veterans, still weigh my experiences against other Veterans. I was affirmed over and over...by the Humanities Center that my story was enough."

Veterans' Voices strives to solidify a network of Veterans and civilians, brings Minnesota Veterans together through the humanities, and forms a public narrative that affirms Veterans as positive leaders in our communities.

"This highly visible *Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony* is just one piece of an extensive program that is successfully connecting citizens to the diverse and complex stories of Veterans," said former *Veterans' Voices* awardee Scott Glew. "Our collective understanding of war and peace will become richer as Veterans are empowered to share their experiences, as educators gain access to relevant professional development and resources, and as the general public comes together in dialogue to challenge conventional narratives and perceptions. The Humanities Center, through their *Veterans' Voices* program, is making this happen."

Nominations must include answers to questions detailing a candidate's contributions and reasons they exemplify the mission and values of the Humanities Center. Information sessions will be hosted for interested nominators, covering eligibility requirements and qualifiers and providing tips for completing the nomination form. **In-person Information Sessions** will be held on Thursday, April 20 at 10:00-11:00 am and at 5:30-6:30 pm at the Humanities Center in St. Paul.

Ampers radio is the media sponsor of the 2017 *Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony*.

For more information about the *Veterans' Voices Award* nomination process and upcoming information sessions visit mnhum.org/vets.

Nominations may be submitted online (mnhum.org/vets) or by mail to:

Minnesota Humanities Center
2017 *Veterans' Voices Award*
987 Ivy Avenue East
Saint Paul, MN 55106

All nominations must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, May 19, 2017. Nominees selected to receive an award will be notified by Tuesday, July 11, 2017. Details about the nomination and past *Veterans' Voices* awardees are available at mnhum.org/vets.

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Download our [Veterans' Voices Media Kit](#).



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