



Minnesota
Humanities
Center



MNHUM.ORG

For Immediate Release

Nominate an Exceptional Veteran for 2016 Veterans' Voices Award Nominations Accepted Until June 3

May 18, 2016—ST. PAUL, Minn.—The Minnesota Humanities Center is now accepting nominations for its *2016 Veterans' Voices Award*, which honors exceptional Minnesota Veterans who have gone above and beyond the call of duty. *The Veteran's Voices Award* recognizes Minnesota Veterans who served honorably in the military and are now significantly contributing to their communities, in their professions and/or through volunteerism. Eighty Veterans from 54 Minnesota communities have received the *Veterans' Voices Award* since its introduction in 2013.

The Humanities Center invites nominations of candidates who are actively engaged former or current military service members who are making significant, positive contributions and who fall into one of two categories: On the Rise (40 and under) or Legacy (over 40). **Award nominations will be accepted through June 3, 2016.**

"The Minnesota Humanities Center touched my life and gave me the wings that I needed to fly," said Mohammad Zafar, a Marine Corps Veteran and a 2013 *Veterans' Voices* awardee. "The *Veterans' Voices Award* opened opportunities for me as a Veteran and give me solid ground to pursue my dreams."

The awards will be presented at the fourth annual **Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony** held at the *Anderson Student Center* on the campus of the *University of St. Thomas* in St. Paul on September 11, 2016. 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.

Since 9/11/2001 more than 88,000 men and women from Minnesota have been deployed and many have returned home from wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. These Veterans, who are our neighbors and co-workers, defended the freedom of all Americans.

Veterans' Voices is a state-wide program that amplifies, honors, and recognizes the stories and contributions of Minnesota Veterans through programming that includes storytelling, theatrical performance, art, discussion groups, a literature curriculum project, and presentation of the *Veterans' Voices Award*. This program creates 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.

NOMINATIONS: Nominations must be accompanied by a narrative describing why the Veteran is being nominated. **All nominations must be received by 11:59 p.m. on Friday, June 3, 2016.** For more information about the *Veterans' Voices Award* nomination process and past *Veterans' Voices* awardees visit www.mnhum.org/vets#nomination.

Nominations may be submitted online at www.mnhum.org/vets#nomination or by mail to:

Minnesota Humanities Center
2016 Veterans' Voices Award
987 Ivy Avenue East
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Contact at Minnesota Humanities Center:

Christi Shortridge, Communications Director, 651-772-4251 or 651-278-2635 (cell), christi@mnhum.org
Trista Matascastillo, Veterans' Voices Program Officer, 651-772-4248, trista@mnhum.org



###

Minnesota Humanities Center
987 IVY AVENUE EAST
SAINT PAUL, MN 55106

OFFICE : 651-774-0105
FAX : 651-774-0205
EVENT CENTER : 651-772-4242
TOLL FREE : 866-268-7293

