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Minnesota Humanities Center Recognizes 25 Minnesota Veterans For Outstanding Service to Country and Community

August 15, 2016—ST. PAUL, Minn — The Minnesota Humanities Center proudly announces the **2016 Veterans' Voices Awardees**. Minnesotans from across the state nominated Veterans who have honorably served and have shown exemplary community service. From a host of nominees, 13 “On the Rise” Veterans (age 40 and under) and 12 “Legacy” Veterans (age 41 and over) were selected by a panel of their peers to receive the **Veterans' Voices Award**.

Awards will be presented at the **Veterans' Voices Award Ceremony** on September 11, 2016 at the **University of St. Thomas Anderson Student Center** in St. Paul. Public and private sector achievements of 25 Minnesota Veterans (listed below) will be recognized. Gulf War Veteran and WCCO-TV reporter Reg Chapman will emcee. Past award presenters were Governor Mark Dayton and Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, Retired Major General Larry Shellito. This year's presenter will be announced soon.

The event is 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 plays, art, and discussion groups to publicly acknowledge Veterans making an exceptional difference throughout their communities and the state. The 2016 Veterans' Voices Awardees are:

On the Rise Awardees

Kelsey Besse. Air Force and Army National Guard. Eagan; **Jessica L. de Kozlowski**. Air Force and Air Force Reserve. Edina; **Jolaina Falkenstein**. Army Reserve. Carver; **Daniel Fanning**. Army National Guard. Duluth; **Josh Herman**. Marine Corps. St. Paul; **Christopher Jon Hvinden**, Marine Corps. Little Canada; **Lina Knox. MA**. Army National Guard. Coon Rapids; **David Peters**. Marine Corps. Cottage Grove; **Amanda J. Piersak**. Air Force Reserve. St. Paul; **Paul Riedner**. Army. Minneapolis; **Robert J. Rivera**. Air Force. Edina; **Jacob Thomas**. Air Force and Air Force Reserve. Minneapolis; **Mike Waldron**. Marine Corps. Esko

Legacy Awardees

Bob Boone. Army National Guard. Cambridge; **Matthew C.G. Boucher**. Army National Guard. Ramsey; **Brigadier General David Hamlar, Jr., M.D.** Air Force. Inver Grove Height; **Fletcher Hinds**. Marine Corps. Duluth; **Louis J. King**. Army. Lake Elmo; **Gordon W. Kirk**. Army. St. Paul; **Sheila Pike Laughton**. Air Force. Newport; **Geraldine Longfellow**. Army National Guard. Burnsville; **Mathew M. Meyer, Esq.** Marine Corps. Shakopee; **Michael Mills**. Army and Army National Guard. Freeport; **Chibenesi, Dr. James Northrup**. Marine Corps. Sawyer (*In Memorium April 28, 1943 - August 1, 2016*); **Colonel Donald G. Patton**. Army. Edina

For more information on Veterans' Voices and all [2016 awardee bios](#) visit mnhum.org/vets. Download our [Veterans' Voices Media Kit](#).

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