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## **Minnesota Humanities Center Opens Nominations for Veterans' Voices Awards**

**March 29, 2018—SAINT PAUL, Minn.** — The Minnesota Humanities Center (MHC) is excited to announce that nominations for their 2018 Veterans' Voices Awards are now being accepted. Nominations will be open through Thursday, June 7, 2018.

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.

"Receiving a 2014 Veterans' Voices Award validated the work I was doing through AmeriCorps and it positively impacted the transition into my current career," says Awardee, Alex Schueller. "I received this award in the early days of my new career, and it helped me realize I deserved to be there to continue service to the community. Continuing to nominate Veterans is imperative in elevating the positive impacts our Veterans make on our communities in Minnesota."

For the past four years, the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has led a nationwide initiative to amplify the voices of Veterans through Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War. MHC's Veterans' Voices program is the ongoing Minnesota embodiment of this initiative.

"The humanities can play a vital role in helping us to understand the human experience and to consider our obligations to one another. The question of what we owe each other becomes particularly urgent when men and women serve in wartime. [T]he humanities [are instrumental] both in helping Americans to understand the experiences of service members and in assisting Veterans as they return to civilian life. – National Endowment for the Humanities on Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War.

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.

"The Humanities Center is honored to be presenting the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Veterans' Voices Awards," says David O'Fallon, MHC President & CEO. "The Veterans' Voices program and award strike at the core of our humanities work in Minnesota. They are instrumental in telling the absent narrative of Veterans and also of leveraging the power of the humanities to create empathy and bring people together – including bridging the Veteran-civilian divide. The humanities allow us to ask two fundamental questions: 'What kind of world do you want to live in?'"

and ‘How are we all going to get along in that world?’ Amplifying the voices of Veterans within that is the goal of our Veterans’ Voices work.”

For more information on the Veterans’ Voices program as well as details about the Veterans’ Voices Award and how to nominate a deserving Veteran, visit <https://mnhum.org/vets/award/>. Download our [Veterans’ Voices 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](http://mnhum.org) or join us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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