



STANDING TOGETHER:

The Humanities and
the Experience of War

NEH and the State Humanities Councils

FEDERATION OF STATE
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This April NEH launched **STANDING TOGETHER: *The Humanities and the Experience of War***, a new agency-wide grantmaking initiative to fund projects on the history, experience, and meaning of war and military service. Standing Together aims to promote discussion and understanding of the experiences of Americans affiliated with the armed services, whether active duty or veterans. Projects that have a clear potential to involve the nation's veterans and their families are especially encouraged.

STANDING TOGETHER began with five pilot programs:

- **The Warrior Scholar Project:** a two-week humanities-based "academic boot camp" to facilitate veterans' transition from the military to college.
- **The Talking Service Project:** discussion groups for veterans using works of literature in the NEH-funded anthology *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian*, published by the Great Books Foundation in partnership with the New York Council for the Humanities.
- **Literature & Medicine for Veterans:** a reading and discussion program for veterans offered by the Maine Humanities Council, which expands on the original Literature & Medicine program for professional caregivers.
- **Military History Workshop:** a workshop at Northeastern University that offered hands-on training on the application of digital humanities methodologies to military history.
- **YouStories: Classics, Conversation, Connection:** a program of Aquila Theatre, which conducts special outreach to veterans and their families, with powerful portrayals in Greek drama of soldiers returning home from war.

NEH's fifty-six state and territorial humanities councils have been and continue to be highly responsive to their communities' desire to recognize and support America's military veterans and were invited to apply for a \$10,000 grant to develop and enhance programs that reflect these interests. This pamphlet offers a summary of their plans.

Alabama Humanities Foundation Literature and the Veteran Experience

The foundation will work with the Veterans Administration system to offer reading and discussion programs for veterans. Novels, short fiction, poetry, letters, and personal accounts will be read and discussed with humanities scholars who are also veterans.

Contact: *Armand DeKeyser*

Alaska Humanities Forum Standing Together: Telling the Stories of Alaska War Veterans

Serving one of the highest concentrations of Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans in the United States, the Alaska Humanities Forum has designed an oral history program to run in conjunction with their Veterans Book Group program, supported by the Maine Humanities Council. Fifty to sixty veterans will share their stories through a publication, on radio, and through community readings and discussion programs.

Contact: *Nina Kempel*

Amerika Samoa Humanities Council Ua Malo Toa, Ua Malo Tau / Salute to Bravery, Honor to a Dignified Fight

Amerika Samoa Humanities Council is working with Veterans Affairs and the Office of Public Information for the American Samoa Government to tell the stories of local veterans. Thirty conversations between veterans, family members, and active-duty service men and women will be broadcast on local TV. A local war veteran will receive a Humanitarian Award at a Veterans Day celebration. The council will also air three-minute TV spots honoring fallen Samoan soldiers.

Contact: *Niualama Taifane*

Arizona Humanities Making Peace

Arizona Humanities will offer a series of workshops, film screenings, and text-based discussions focused on the reintegration of veterans into the larger community. Veterans will participate in writing workshops and facilitated conversations. Arizona Humanities will partner with local veterans and veteran organizations, Veterans First, Ltd, and the Veterans Community Health and Wellness Center in the planning and implementation of the programs.

Contact: *Jamie Martin*

Arkansas Humanities Council Arkansas Veterans Writing Project

The Arkansas Humanities Council will organize writing classes for veterans in at least three sites. Participants will learn from an instructor about writing method, evaluation, and editing. At a conference, participants will share their work with other veterans and the general public.

Contact: *Paul S. Austin*

Cal Humanities California Reads— War Comes Home

Earlier this year, Cal Humanities, in partnership with the California Center for the Book, selected Karl Marlantes's *What It Is Like to Go to War* for its statewide reading program, California Reads. Other veterans-related programs will include public conversations, a teacher development program, a touring banner exhibit, a Literature & Medicine program, veterans discussion groups, and local projects through Community Stories.

Contact: *Christina Sutherland*

Colorado Humanities War Stories by Colorado Soldiers

Colorado Humanities will design a pilot program to offer a writing program for soldiers to tell their stories, with plans to share those stories in staged readings, visual art, film, and other media to audiences of fellow soldiers and the general public. Colorado Humanities plans to engage Helen Thorpe, author of the forthcoming *Soldier Girls*, as a project adviser and presenter.

Contact: *Maggie Coval*

The Humanities Council of Washington, DC Standing Together: the Humanities and the Experience of War

The Humanities Council of Washington, DC, will invite service men and women and their families to have their photographs, correspondence, journals, slides, and other memorabilia digitized. Participants will be encouraged to submit copies of their files to the council's DC Digital Museum, the Library of Congress's Veterans History Project, and the public domain. Veterans will also be invited to videotape oral histories. An online exhibit will follow.

Contact: *Rachel Dutcher*

Delaware Humanities Forum Licensed, Proud, and Honored to Serve

The Delaware Humanities Forum will fund a documentary, with accompanying screenings and discussions, featuring Delaware veterans holding license plates reflecting their veteran status. This project seeks to understand what this type of public acknowledgment means to them.

Contact: *Kristen E. Wilczynski*

Florida Humanities Council The Telling Project

The Florida Humanities Council will collaborate with the Telling Project to create staged performances and a documentary. Veterans will be recruited from VA hospitals, VFWs, colleges and universities, and military bases to record their oral histories. These will be turned into a stage program performed by veterans and followed by a discussion. The project's phases will be documented by WEDU, Tampa's public television station, and aired on Veterans Day 2015.

Contact: *Janine Farver*

Georgia Humanities Council Together We Stand

The Georgia Humanities Council will collaborate with five other organizations to plan statewide reading and discussion programs. The *Standing Down* anthology will be used as a starting point for all discussions. Host organizations are also encouraged to partner with other local groups.

Contact: *Arden Williams*

Guam Humanities Council Guam Women Warriors: Their Stories, Their Voices, Their Realities

The Guam Humanities Council has opened an exhibit, *Sindålu—Chamorro Journeys in the U.S. Military*, and is developing an oral history project devoted to female soldiers and veterans. These narratives will be combined with photographs and videos for an online exhibit and archive. The council will also host film screenings, reading and discussion events, and other programs to connect veterans to the wider community.

Contact: *Kimberlee Kihleng*

Hawai'i Council for the Humanities
Standing Together, Hawai'i:
Humanities and the Experience of War

The Hawai'i Council for the Humanities will coordinate workshops and forums for K–12 teachers, using the anthology *Standing Down* to discuss how to teach the experience of war. HCH will also engage community groups in conversations for and about returning veterans. HCH will pilot at least two programs in 2014–2015, and plans to continue the programs in 2015–2016.

Contact: *Robert Buss*

Idaho Humanities Council
War & Remembrance

In light of the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of the Vietnam War, the Idaho Humanities Council will pilot a reading and discussion program exploring *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien and *What It Is Like to Go to War* by Karl Marlantes. Additional programs will include a lecture on the legacy of the Vietnam War, a moderated panel discussion with combat veterans, and the screening of a documentary film by Idaho Vietnam War veterans exploring their experiences at the 1968 siege of Khe Sanh.

Contact: *Rick Ardinger*

Illinois Humanities Council Dialogs
about Post-9/11 Veterans

The Illinois Humanities Council will engage Phil Klay, Iraq War veteran and author, and William Edwards, Iraq War veteran and strategy integration specialist with Boeing's corporate citizenship program, in dialogs about post-9/11 veterans' transitions to civilian life. The Veterans Book Club, the reading and discussion program coordinated by the Maine Humanities

Council, will host. Other venues for public discussions may include libraries and radio.

Contact: *Matt Meacham*

Indiana Humanities Standing
Together: The Humanities and
the Experience of War

After consulting with key local veterans agencies, Indiana Humanities will offer regrants of up to \$5,000 to nonprofit veterans organizations in Indiana. Projects must involve one or more humanities disciplines and target an audience of veterans.

Contact: *Nancy Conner*

Humanities Iowa An Oral History
of Iowa Student Veterans

Humanities Iowa will gather oral histories from student veterans, starting with at least twenty-five at ISU, before moving on to other colleges and universities. Photographs taken during their military service will be paired with new pictures of the veterans on campus and in their communities. These stories will be presented through a website, in academic presentations, and other public events.

Contact: *Christopher Rossi*

Kansas Humanities Council
The Things They Carried Home:
Kansas Preserve War Artifacts

To serve the state's large population of veterans and active military, the Kansas Humanities Council will support projects exploring "the things they carried home to Kansas." Grants may help museums and historical societies preserve and interpret existing military collections

or host workshops to help veterans and their families preserve their own artifacts. KHC will also organize community book discussions, supported by an NEA Big Read grant, on *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien.

Contact: *Julie Mulvihill*

Kentucky Humanities Council Talking Service and Chautauqua for Veterans

Kentucky Humanities Council will sponsor four Talking Service book discussion programs at four locations. Twelve Chautauqua presentations for veterans and their families will also be offered to active armed forces locations and to organizations specifically serving veterans.

Contact: *Kathleen Pool*

Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities The Warrior as Writer: Literature of Recent Wars

The Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities will collaborate with the Tennessee Williams/New Orleans Literary Festival to produce a panel discussion on the literature of recent wars, bringing together veteran writers to discuss their books and their military experiences. Fifty free passes will be given to local veterans and active military. Retired Lieutenant General Russel Honoré will discuss his books, Hurricane Katrina, and his military career. And the writeNOW outreach program will coordinate visits to local high schools by authors who are veterans.

Contact: *Brian Boyles*

Maine Humanities Council Coming Home: The Return to Civilian Life

The Maine Humanities Council will partner with veterans groups and the

Maine VA Healthcare System to offer public film and discussion programs in seven communities across the state. MHC will screen William Wyler's film *The Best Years of Our Lives* (1946) in an effort to promote awareness of some of the challenges service members, their families, and their communities face when veterans return home. Resources and information about veterans groups and services will be available at each screening.

Contact: *Lizz Sinclair*

Maryland Humanities Council Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War

The Maryland Humanities Council will present a variety of programs, using new and existing partnerships to extend their reach. Programs will include training for discussion facilitators, a public reading of creative writing by veterans in partnership with the Bob Parsons Veterans Center at the University of Baltimore, radio programs on WYPR 88.1 FM's *Humanities Connection*, and an oral history project aligned with National History Day.

Contact: *Phoebe Stein*

Mass Humanities Literature and Medicine at VA Hospitals

To increase the reach and popularity of its Literature and Medicine program, Mass Humanities will begin selecting hosts through a competitive regrant program. Funding in 2015 will be available for two programs at VA hospitals or other recognized groups that benefit veterans' health. The online competitive RFP will then be used for future competitive programs.

Contact: *Pleun Bouricius*

Michigan Humanities Council

The Telling Project: Michigan

The Michigan Humanities Council, in partnership with Detroit Public Television and the Telling Project, will recruit local veterans to tell their stories of service and participate in a public performance. The interviews will form the basis for a three-act play that will travel across the state. DPTV will broadcast the production on Veterans Day 2015.

Contact: *Robbe DiPietro*

Minnesota Humanities Center Veterans' Voices

Launched in 2013, Veterans' Voices empowers veterans to connect with others through literature, theater, art, public discussions, and an annual award. Minnesota is now the first state in the country to dedicate a month, October, to honoring veterans. MHC will strengthen and expand Veterans' Voices programming, while also adding a reading and discussion program based on the *Standing Down* anthology.

Contact: *David O'Fallon*

Mississippi Humanities Council

The Telling Project: Mississippi

The Mississippi Humanities Council will create two different plays with the Telling Project and bring them to at least four cities. The plays will be based on oral history interviews with local veterans. Collaborations with New Stage Theater, in Jackson, and the University of Southern Mississippi, on the Gulf Coast, will help extend its reach. MHC will also enlist Mississippi Public Broadcasting as a partner to promote this program.

Contact: *Stuart Rockoff*

Missouri Humanities Council

Veterans Writing Workshops

The Missouri Humanities Council will expand its veterans writing workshops, which are at capacity enrollment and have yielded three anthologies. An online module will allow veterans unable to participate because of disability, travel issues, or other conflicts to take advantage of the program.

Contact: *Jim Weidman*

Humanities Montana Standing Together in Montana

Talking Service reading and discussion programs will involve student veterans, Native American veterans, and rural veterans. A partnership with the Missoula Public Library will support Big Read programming around *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien in conjunction with Humanities Montana's Festival of the Book. The Humanities Montana-funded documentary *Beyond the Divide*, about peace activists and veterans in one Montana town, will be the focus of statewide programming.

Contact: *Kim Anderson*

Humanities Nebraska Veterans Writing Workshop

Humanities Nebraska has collaborated with the Nebraska Writing Project to implement a series of writing workshops for returning veterans. The first workshop will be held in fall 2014 at the VA Nebraska–Western Iowa in Lincoln.

Contact: *Erika Hamilton*

Nevada Humanities Nevada Humanities Standing Together Veterans' Programs

Nevada Humanities will help bring a theater production of *The Things They*

Carried, by Tim O'Brien, complete with moderated discussion after the performance, to Las Vegas. An episode of *Nevada's Hidden Stories*, a radio program produced by Reno Public Radio and Nevada Humanities, will explore veterans' issues. Poet and veteran Waddie Mitchell will appear—through Nevada Humanities—at the 2014 Vegas Valley Book Festival. Nevada Humanities is also dedicating two public discussions to issues concerning female veterans.

Contact: *Christina Barr*

New Hampshire Humanities Council VETFLIX: Chronicling the American Experience of War

The New Hampshire Humanities Council will collaborate with Vetflix to produce a film based on oral histories with local veterans. More than eighty interviews have already been conducted with veterans of all eras. NHHC will also host screenings and discussions.

Contact: *Kathy Mathis*

New Jersey Council for the Humanities Literature and Medicine Expansion in New Jersey VA Hospitals

The New Jersey Humanities Council will double its Literature and Medicine offerings from one VA healthcare center to two.

Contact: *Briann Greenfield*

New Mexico Humanities Council Talking Service

The New Mexico Humanities Council will bring the Talking Service reading and discussion program to at least four partner organizations in fall 2014 and spring 2015.

Contact: *K. Michelle Quisenberry*

New York Council for the Humanities Serving: Standing Down

Serving: Standing Down is a reading and discussion program for veterans, using the *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian* anthology. NYCH has partnered with the Great Books Foundation to pilot this program nationally as Talking Service through June 2015.

Contact: *Adam Capitanio*

North Carolina Humanities Council Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War

The North Carolina Humanities Council will use Standing Together funds to offer a competitive regrant program for scholarship exploring war and its aftermath and other projects attempting to improve public understanding of the experience of veterans and active-duty military.

Contact: *Paula Watkins*

North Dakota Humanities Council Warrior Words

The North Dakota Humanities Council will support Warrior Words, a six-week writing workshop open to North Dakota veterans. Finished pieces will be shared at a free public reading and collected in Volume II of *Warrior Words* in spring 2015.

Contact: *Brenna Gerhardt*

Northern Marianas Humanities Council A Soldier's Story / I Estorian Sindålu / Sittillapal Sulólu

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council will create a traveling exhibit of personal stories and photographs of the commonwealth's veterans. The exhibit will open on Veterans Day 2015 and will travel to the islands of

Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Contact: *Scott Russell*

Ohio Humanities Standing Together in Ohio

Ohio Humanities is making grants of up to \$5,000 available to support programs that seek to integrate veterans into their local community using humanities materials, processes, and scholars.

Contact: *Pat Williamsen*

Oklahoma Humanities Council Native Oklahoma: Veterans' Experience

The Oklahoma Humanities Council is partnering with Oklahoma Educational Television Authority and tribal organizations to develop a documentary about Native American veterans. This special episode of *Native Oklahoma*, a thirty-minute documentary television series, will be available for a spring 2015 broadcast.

Contact: *Ann Thompson*

Oregon Humanities Life After War: Understanding Veterans' Experiences Through Stories, Photos, and Film

Oregon Humanities has planned screenings of *Journey to Normal: Women of War Come Home*, followed by moderated discussions. Life After War, a discussion program, will ask participants to consider veterans' experiences and war's effects on communities at home.

Contact: *Jennifer Allen*

Pennsylvania Humanities Council Enhancing the Humanities in Penn's Veterans Upward Bound

The Pennsylvania Humanities Council will partner with the University of

Pennsylvania's Veterans Upward Bound program, which seeks to motivate and assist veterans headed to college. In addition to helping promote the program to veterans, PHC will work to strengthen its humanities component.

Contact: *Mimi Iijima*

Fundación Puertorriqueña de las Humanidades The New Borinqueneers: Stories of Our Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Conflicts

The Fundación Puertorriqueña de las Humanidades will produce two thirty-minute television documentaries featuring the experiences of local veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts. The documentaries will air in November 2014 on Sistema, the local PBS affiliate, and will be translated into English for increased distribution.

Contact: *Juan M. González Lamela*

Rhode Island Council for the Humanities Ajax in Rhode Island: A Community Conversation

The Rhode Island Council for the Humanities will support a partnership between Salve Regina University and Providence College for a community conversation about the challenges facing veterans, using a reader's theater production of the ancient Greek play *Aias (Ajax)*. The production will tour several venues around Rhode Island to bring together recent veterans, future soldiers, veterans' health professionals, and the general public for a community conversation about the toll of multiple tours of duty on citizen-soldiers.

Contact: *Elizabeth Francis*

Humanities Council^{SC} South Carolina Veterans! Not Alone

The Humanities Council^{SC} will partner with the National Alliance for Mental Illness to offer a panel discussion, a reading and discussion program, and speakers for two smaller rural South Carolina communities.

Contact: *Randy Akers*

South Dakota Humanities Council

South Dakota Humanities Council will sponsor reading and writing groups for veterans. These will take place in Brookings, in partnership with South Dakota State University, and in Sioux Falls with *Argus Leader* columnist and former Marine Lori Walsh. A writers' retreat for workshop participants is also being planned, along with presentations at the South Dakota Festival of Books and the Women Veterans Conference in Sioux Falls.

Contact: *Sherry De Boer*

Humanities Tennessee Standing Together in Tennessee

The 2014 Southern Festival of Books will feature sessions on wartime service and veterans' homecoming experiences. The festival will also include dramatic readings of veterans' letters as well as readings by veterans from Operation Homecoming at Middle Tennessee State University. In spring 2015, two reading and discussion programs using Standing Down are planned. Humanities Tennessee will also make available scholar-facilitated discussion programs based on veterans' oral histories for travel around the state.

Contact: *Tim Henderson*

Humanities Texas

The Veteran's Experience

Humanities Texas will expand Texas Veterans' Voices, a program offering

group readings of classic literary texts relating to war, the military, and the return to civilian life. Humanities Texas will also collaborate with local partners, including the Telling Project, to host an evening of readings and conversation with authors who are veterans and are participating in the Arts Celebrating Service conference in Austin.

Contact: *Melissa J. Huber*

Utah Humanities Council

Standing Together: The Humanities and the Experience of War

The Utah Humanities Council will partner with the American West Center at the University of Utah, the Merrill Library at Utah State University, and Hill Air Force Base to help gather oral histories from veterans of the Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars. The Utah Humanities Book Festival will feature authors who are veterans or authors who write about veterans' issues. Finally, UHC will develop programs with three Utah veterans centers.

Contact: *Cynthia Buckingham*

Vermont Humanities Council First Wednesdays and Book Discussions

Using its First Wednesdays series, Vermont Humanities Council will present five veterans-related programs between fall 2014 and fall 2015. Reading and discussion programs that serve family members of veterans and veterans in correctional facilities are also planned and will complement VHC's Veterans Book Group, a program supported by the Maine Humanities Council.

Contact: *Amy Cunningham*

Virginia Foundation for the Humanities Standing Together Initiatives

Virginia Foundation for the Humanities will expand on their eleven-year collaboration with the Vietnam Graffiti Project to digitize musical reel-to-reel tapes found on a Vietnam War-era troop ship and share the found content on a future *With Good Reason* radio program. Planning has begun for two reading and discussion programs: the Talking Service program, using the *Standing Down* anthology, and a pilot program called *Surviving War*, which uses a 2009 VFH-published book of poetry, essays, and photographs on the experience of war. VFH will also sponsor Veterans in Society: Humanizing the Discourse, a conference presented by Virginia Tech in April 2015.

Contact: Rob Vaughan/Maggie Guggenheimer

Humanities Washington The Talking Service Project in Washington State

Humanities Washington will bring the Talking Service reading and discussion program to two community colleges situated near major military installations. Two sessions are planned as a pilot program, with the possibility of future expansion. The program will be open to veterans and their family members.

Contact: Eric Sanders

West Virginia Humanities Council West Virginia Standing Together: Humanities and the Experience of War

The West Virginia Humanities Council will partner with their state Center for the Book to present four reading

and discussion programs at sites across the state in 2015. The series will consider themes including military service, war experiences, and the return to civilian life. Outreach efforts will include collaboration with local VA field offices, the Office of Veterans Assistance, and the University Veteran's Services offices.

Contact: Mark Payne

Wisconsin Humanities Council Military Life Traveling Exhibits

The Wisconsin Humanities Council will partner with the Wisconsin Veterans Museum to support three traveling exhibits: "Buddies Beyond Battle"; "Santos Zingale: Off Duty"; and "Faithful: Military Mascots." Each exhibit will tour to three locations and each venue will host public programs related to the exhibit theme.

Contact: Dena Wortzel

Wyoming Humanities Council WHC Veterans Programming

The Wyoming Humanities Council will help a fly-fishing chapter of the veterans program Project Healing Waters to develop a reading and discussion component and begin reaching out to non-student veterans. WHC will also support humanities speakers at the Promoting Our Women Warriors of Wyoming conference and send film producer John Lukacs to tour his documentary 4-4-43 to eight communities in October 2014.

Contact: Sheila Bricher-Wade

