



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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'Myths, Legends, and Epics' through the lens of veterans' experience

Landmark Center celebrates World Storytelling Day, March 20

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (Feb. 25, 2019)—Every year, since 2003, World Storytelling Day events take place on or around March 20 in more than 25 countries. Storytelling is often thought of as fairytales, fables, and oral history, but it is also commonly used to foster peace and understanding, community building, healing, and in advocacy work. Each year a global theme complements the principal concept behind WSD, "If I can hear your story, it's harder for me to hate you." This year's global theme is "Myths, Legends, and Epics."

This year's global theme lends itself to the epic struggle of veterans coming home whole: to meaningful life. Odysseus took ten arduous years to return from the Trojan War. Psychiatrist Jonathan Shay documents such heroic journeys in books like *Achilles in Vietnam*. The literature of folklore is littered with legends like the Grimm's *Bearskin*, where a returning soldier suffers valiantly for seven years to win the life he wants and deserves. Finally, real life veteran legends like Jesse Owens and Hugh Thompson are rivaled only by the growing cadre of women veterans daring to stand up to the travesty of military sexual assault.

The event begins at 6 p.m., with information tables outside the F.K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium, with storytelling and veteran support organizations, Twin Cities PBS, Women Veterans Initiative, Warrior Writers, Rosen Body Work for Veterans, as well as Veterans for Peace (VFP) and other member groups of Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers. Storytelling begins at 7 p.m. in the F.K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium. This event is free, but donations to Veteran Resilience Project will be accepted.

Storytellers:

Larry Johnson - Legendary, Mythical Host and Supporter of the Epic Veteran Resilience Project

Hector Matascastillo - Army Ranger, Psychotherapist, Clinical Director, Author, Speaker

Trista Matascastillo - Veteran, Ramsey County Commissioner, Bush Fellow, Feminist

Carol McCormick - Veteran Spouse, Professional Storyteller, Story Arts of Minnesota (Board Member), Author

Derek Anders-Turner - Combat Engineer, US Bank Technology Product Manager, Natl Black Police Association Member

Mark Wagler - Legendary Storyteller from Madison, Co-Founder Northlands Storytelling Network

Elaine Wynne - Storyteller, Veteran Spouse, EMDR Therapist/Trainer, Founder of Veteran Resilience Project

RSVPs are not required, but encouraged. The reception and information tables open at 6 p.m., and the storytelling program begins at 7 p.m. Seats for RSVPs will be held until 6:30 p.m. Questions and RSVPs can be addressed to Larry Johnson at larryjvfp@gmail.com.

About Landmark Center

Landmark Center is a dynamic, historic cultural center and central gathering place in downtown Saint Paul. It is owned and sponsored by Ramsey County and managed by Minnesota Landmarks, the nonprofit programming and management agency for the building. Landmark Center is located at 75 West 5th Street, on Rice Park and is accessible to those with impaired mobility. Parking is available on street and in nearby Lawson, Science Museum and RiverCentre Ramps. For more information call 651.292.3063 or visit www.landmarkcenter.org.

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