

## **MILITARY VETS OFFERED FREE WRITING SEMINAR TO COPE WITH WARTIME EXPERIENCES**

Cedar Rapids, IA—Military members, including family members, are invited to attend a free writers' workshop to give them the skills to write about their military experiences. WRITING MY WAY BACK HOME is a nonprofit writing program for veterans—both non-combat and combat vets—to help vets develop the writing skills necessary tell their stories.

WRITING MY WAY BACK HOME is scheduled for Friday, February 27, 2015, beginning at 5p.m. and concluding on Sunday, March 1, 2015, at 1 p.m. at the Veterans Memorial Building, 50 2nd Avenue Bridge, Cedar Rapids, IA 52401. No writing experience is needed to attend this workshop, but you must register to attend at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/writing-my-way-back-home-free-midwest-veterans-writing-workshop-tickets-10544042515?aff=eandprexshre&ref=eandprexshre>

Workshop attendance is limited to a first come, first served basis.

Military members have a story to tell and the WRITING MY WAY BACK HOME weekend workshop will help them gain the tools and confidence to tell it well. By using reading and writing exercises to explore deployment and wartime experiences—the fear, boredom, anxieties, thrills, brutality, tears and beauty—attendees learn how to write a story and make it compelling. WRITING MY WAY BACK HOME participants will explore the many approaches possible to write about the self to produce personal stories, poetry, fiction, and song lyrics by the end of the weekend.

“We have an amazing roster of the area’s literary figures leading the workshops this year,” Emma Johnson [formerly Rainey], founder and director of WMWBH says. “Joe Blair is teaching “A Thousand Monkeys” to help writers get words on the page fast and furious.”

Another highlight of the workshop weekend includes Will Jennings’s “Object, Gesture, and Transaction,” session. “For this workshop, we ask that veterans bring a special military service memento or photograph to write about during this workshop class,” Johnson explains. “The memento need not be your own but could be from a family member or a friend who served.”

The workshop’s primary aim is not to generate work of literary quality—although this may happen—rather it is a means to help veterans write and reflect on the events of their military experiences in ways that may lead to greater insight, creativity, and healing.

For more information, please contact Emma Johnson at [emma.rainey4@gmail.com](mailto:emma.rainey4@gmail.com) or John Mikleson at [jmikelson16@gmail.com](mailto:jmikelson16@gmail.com)