

Invitation to

# War Veterans

from Iraq,  
Afghanistan  
and other  
conflict areas.



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Please come and participate in a workshop with other veterans to share your experiences from combat and make a book of your photos and words.

**September 19–20,**  
Saturday–Sunday  
10 am–5 pm  
**At the Minnesota Center for Book Arts in Minneapolis,**  
1011 Washington Ave S  
Minneapolis, MN 55415

**This workshop is free.**

Please contact Monica Haller to register and for additional details.  
[monicahaller@yahoo.com](mailto:monicahaller@yahoo.com)

## Workshop Details

The workshop is for you, veterans, to compile your own photos and stories in a booklet of 50 to 200 pages each. The booklets can be generated from your writing and/or photographs from combat and here at home.

### Text

Your writing might come from journal entries or e-mails from combat, writing you have done since returning from your tour(s), or generated from conversations and activities at the workshop itself.

### Photos

Your photographs might be images from combat, pictures that document something that is important to you (like an article of clothing). Your photos may help you tell stories, or they may stand alone without explanation.

You can include either writing or pictures in your book, or both.

At the workshop you will have help organizing your book. We will arrange the material for your book through individual exercises to help you organize your thoughts and through conversations with other veterans and myself.

### Final Booklet

You will receive a few copies of your own book to take and use as you wish—to circulate and share with family, friends and fellow soldiers, or save for your own archives—and there will be copies for a larger edition. After you finish

your individual booklet it will also become part of a set—a unit of books. The compilation will be like a unit; the whole is larger than its parts, yet contains individual, important stories. Your booklets will stay together. Institutions can collect them for their archives or for a public exhibition.

### Background

I am Monica Haller, the organizer and facilitator of the workshop. The workshop is inspired by a book I made with Iraq war veteran, Riley Sharbonno. Riley was an Army nurse at Abu Ghraib prison from 2004–2005. The book is about the war's effect on Riley, his relationship to thousands of his combat photos, and the complications of memory surrounding the trauma of war. To see examples from that book and learn more about us go to: [www.rileyandhisstory.com](http://www.rileyandhisstory.com)

### Is this a good fit for you?

The workshop is for those who feel ready to talk about their experiences from combat and at home. Or, you may never feel ready, but know you would benefit from sharing. Photos from combat may be important to you—whether you look at your pictures often or never want to look at them at all. Or writing may have been important in combat (journal entries, e-mails for example), or maybe it is now. Maybe you simply have something you want to say.

Are you interested in sharing your story with others? You will have the chance to talk with other veterans

in the workshop. After the workshop you can share your book with family, or keep it private. Eventually the larger community will see your booklets as part of the compilation.

### Why participate? How could this benefit you?

There is no one way that the workshop will be beneficial. Everyone has his or her own experience.

Riley Sharbonno, the Iraq war veteran with whom I made the book *Riley and his story*., writes:

“Processing and re-processing events is what you do when you’re not distracted by other things. I think somehow our forum of talking is the only forum where my mind feels comfortable enough to remember out loud, which is kind of nice. Because otherwise it just eats at me. Otherwise I just keep thinking about these half-memories over and over and over again—to get it out, write it down, then I feel like I can start to move past it.”

### For More Information

Please contact Monica Haller for more details or with any questions. Even if you are simply curious, but not necessarily interested in participating, I look forward to a conversation.  
[monicahaller@yahoo.com](mailto:monicahaller@yahoo.com)

