

National Endowment for the Arts



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HOME COMING

Writing the wartime experience

Here is my father, I said.

He is the most identifiable of the six figures, the only one whose profile is visible. But for half a century he was almost completely silent about Iwo Jima. To his wife of forty-seven years he spoke about it only once, on their first date. It was not until after his death that we learned of the Navy Cross. In his quiet humility he kept that from us. Why was he so silent? I think the answer is summed up in his belief that the true heroes of Iwo Jima were the ones who didn't come back.

— James Bradley

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in cooperation with the Southern Arts Federation.**

***Operation Homecoming* is made possible by The Boeing Company.**



The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), established by Congress in 1965 as an independent federal agency, is the official arts organization of the United States government. As the largest annual funder of the arts in the country, the NEA is dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts — both new and established, bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Through its grants and programs, the NEA brings great art to all 50 states and six U.S. jurisdictions, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases.



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The Southern Arts Federation (SAF) is a nonprofit regional arts organization that has been making a positive difference in the arts throughout the South since 1975. SAF creates partnerships and collaborations; assists in the professional development of artists, arts organizations and arts professionals; presents, promotes and produces Southern arts and cultural programming; and advocates for the arts and art education. The organization works in partnership with the state arts agencies of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee.

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Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience

by Dana Gioia

Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts

Photo by Vance Jacobs



The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to present *Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience*, a program for U.S. military personnel and their families. This unique literary program is aimed at preserving the stories and reflections of American troops who have served our nation on the frontlines — as in Afghanistan and Iraq — and stateside defending the homeland.

In coordination with all four branches of the Armed Forces and the Department of Defense, the Arts Endowment is sponsoring writing workshops for returning troops and their families at military installations from Alaska to Florida, New York to California, and numerous sites in between. The workshops also will be held at overseas bases. Taught by some of America's most distinguished novelists, poets, historians, and journalists, these workshops will provide service men and women with the opportunity to write about their wartime experiences in a variety of forms — from fiction, verse, and letters to essay, memoir, and personal journal. The visiting writers, many of whom are war veterans themselves, will help the troops share their stories with current and future generations.

To give our troops a sense of their own capabilities, the Arts Endowment has also produced an accompanying audio CD for this program. Moving from a heart-rending letter from the Civil War to poems and memoirs about World War II to Vietnam War fiction, the CD explores the variety of literary responses by those who have come through similar experiences.

In addition to the multi-day workshops and audio CD, the Arts Endowment will provide an online writing tutorial to help the troops develop their writing skills and access writing resources. The Web site also will be used to collect submissions of writing by active personnel and their families. The best writing that emerges from this program will be published in a nationally promoted anthology of wartime writing that will be sold in bookstores and will be distributed free by the Arts Endowment to military installations, schools, and libraries.

It is impossible to predict what stories will appear in this anthology. Much of it may be personal in importance — a soldier's or spouse's attempt to capture and clarify a singularly challenging moment in life. Some of it may rise to literature — vivid accounts of experience that arrest the reader's attention and linger in the memory. All of it will have historical value as the testimony of men and women who saw the events directly. *Operation Homecoming* will capture these individual accounts and preserve them for the public record. American letters will be richer for their addition.

War and military service have been major literary subjects as long as there has been literature. The earliest masterpiece of the Western tradition, Homer's *Iliad*, portrays the heroism and human cost of the Trojan War, while its companion poem, *The Odyssey*, recounts one veteran's long and difficult homecoming. The great national epics of imperial Rome (*The Aeneid*), France (*The Song of Roland*), Spain (*El Cid*), and Persia (*The Shahnama*) all commemorate the decisive military encounters that shaped each culture's history.

Many great authors have been soldiers. The Greek playwright Sophocles, creator of *Oedipus Rex*, served as an Athenian general in the Peloponnesian War. The Roman poet Horace fought at the Battle of Philippi. Shakespeare's friend and fellow playwright Ben Jonson served in the infantry in the Flemish Wars. The two Renaissance poets who first brought the sonnet to English — Sir Thomas Wyatt and Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey — both were soldiers. Other great writers have continued this tradition from Spain's Miguel de Cervantes, author of *Don Quixote*, to Russia's Leo Tolstoy, author of *War and Peace*.

War also has inspired its civilian witnesses to great literature. Tending to wounded Union soldiers in the makeshift hospitals of Washington, D.C., the poet Walt Whitman wrote about the devastation of the American Civil War with heartfelt understanding. During World War I, Ernest Hemingway served as a volunteer ambulance driver for the American Red Cross on the Austro-Italian front and was hospitalized with shrapnel injuries. He fictionalized his war experiences in his novel *A Farewell to Arms*. While many American writers served in World War I, few participated in sustained combat, and their writing reflects this absence. For most of them, the war was a great storm in the distance that rolled past without ever touching down.

But World War II was different. For millions of Americans, the war was long, bloody, and personal. Many of our greatest contemporary poets saw brutal combat and later wrote movingly about their wartime experience, including Pulitzer Prize winners, Anthony Hecht, Howard Nemerov, Louis Simpson, and Richard Wilbur. Other American writers served their nation on the dangerous wartime seas, either in the U.S. Navy, like poet William Jay Smith, or in the U.S. Merchant Marine, like novelist Ralph Ellison. Our novelists in uniform also addressed war in their best works, especially James Dickey, Shelby Foote, Joseph Heller, James Jones, John Oliver Killens, Norman Mailer, James Salter, and Kurt Vonnegut. The pattern repeated with the Vietnam War, producing such singular literary talents as Philip Caputo, Joe Haldeman, Yusef Komunyakaa, Tim O'Brien, Robert Stone, and Tobias Wolff.

One cannot tell the story of our nation without also telling the story of our wars. And these often harrowing tales are best told by the men and women who lived them. Today's American military is the best trained and best educated in our nation's history. These men and women offer unique and important voices that enlarge our understanding of the American experience. Looking at the great literary legacy of soldier writers from antiquity to the present, I cannot help but expect that important new writers will emerge from the ranks of our latest veterans. ★

Richard Bausch

Richard Bausch was one of twin boys born in Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1945 (his twin brother, Robert, is also a novelist). When he was three, his family moved to the Washington, D.C. suburbs. He and Robert served in the U.S. Air Force between 1966-1969, after which Richard roamed the Midwest and South playing guitar and singing in a rock band, and writing poetry. He went on to receive a B.A. from George Mason University and an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Iowa. Bausch is the author of nine novels and five collections of short stories, including *Take Me Back* (1981), which was nominated for the PEN/Faulkner Award; *The Last Good Time* (1984); *Mr. Field's Daughter* (1989); *Violence* (1992); *In the Night Season* (1998); *The Gypsy Man* (2003); and *The Stories of Richard Bausch* (2003). His short stories have appeared in numerous prize-winning anthologies, including *Best American Short Stories*, *O. Henry*, and *Pushcart*. He has received several awards, including a National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship, a Guggenheim Fellowship, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writer's Award, and the Award in Literature from the Academy of Arts and Letters. He is Professor of English and Heritage Chair of Creative Writing at George Mason University.★

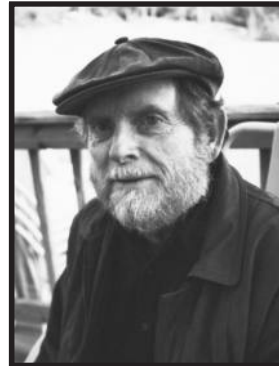
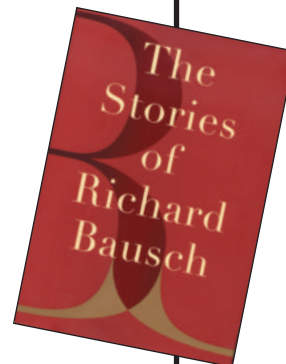


Photo by Karen Bausch

“He left a pause. He might have been considering telling her everything about himself. Then he said, ‘Like most military people, I hate war. But there are tigers in the world, you know.’”



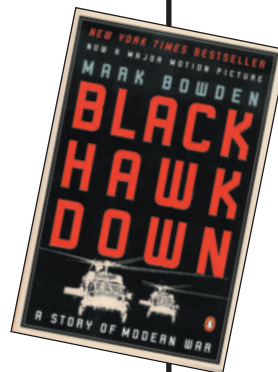
Mark Bowden

Mark Bowden was born in 1951 in St. Louis, Missouri. He earned his B.A. from Loyola College in 1973 and began writing for the *Baltimore News American*. From 1979 until 2003 he held a post at the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. Bowden is the author of several books of nonfiction, including *Doctor Dealer* (1987); *Bringing the Heat* (1994); and *Killing Pablo: The Hunt for the World's Greatest Outlaw*, which won the Overseas Press Club's Cornelius Ryan Award in 2002. His critically acclaimed book *Black Hawk Down* (1999) tells the story of two downed Army helicopters and a daring rescue mission by U.S. Special Forces. *Publishers Weekly* praised the book as "a gripping account of combat that merits thoughtful reading by anyone concerned with the future course of the country's military strategy and its relationship to foreign policy." *Black Hawk Down* earned Bowden the Overseas Press Club's Hal Boyle Award and was made into a blockbuster film. His magazine article "Finders Keepers" was made into the movie *Money for Nothing* starring John Cusack. Bowden has also written for *The New Yorker*, *Sports Illustrated*, the *New York Times*, and the *Washington Post*. He serves as a national correspondent of *The Atlantic*. A collection of his magazine articles entitled *Road Work* will be published in the fall of 2004.★



Photo courtesy of Viking Penguin

“ Their muzzle flashes gave their positions away clearly. Stebbins squeezed off rounds carefully, trying to conserve ammo. Heard was shooting now with an M-16. Nearly deaf, he tapped Stebbins on the shoulder and shouted, ‘Steb, I just want you to know in case we don’t get out of this, I think you’re doing a great job.’ Then the ground around them shook. ”



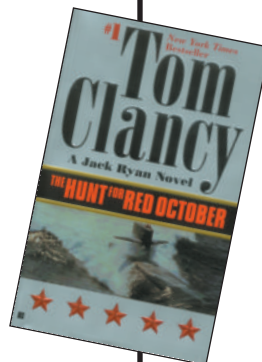
Tom Clancy

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, Tom Clancy attended Loyola College, where he studied English. After graduating in 1969, he worked as an insurance broker until his first novel, *The Hunt for Red October* (1984), became an international success. The novel focuses on a Russian submarine captain who defects to the United States. President Reagan lauded the book as “the perfect yarn” and “un-put-downable.” Clancy followed this debut with a string of bestsellers that explore current and heated issues. His novels address topics such as terrorism, the drug wars, espionage, foreign relations, the Cold War, and — his greatest passion — the military. Many of Clancy’s novels have been adapted into blockbuster films, including *The Hunt for Red October*, *Patriot Games*, *Clear and Present Danger*, and *The Sum of All Fears*. Each novel since Clancy’s first has been a bestseller. His nonfiction books have also been met with acclaim. Clancy’s latest novels are *Red Rabbit* (2002) and *The Teeth of the Tiger* (2003).★



Photo by John Earle

“The carrier landing was a controlled crash. Massive landing gear struts and shock absorbers were needed to lessen the bone-crushing impact. The aircraft surged forward only to be jerked to a halt by the arresting wire. They were down. They were safe. Probably.”



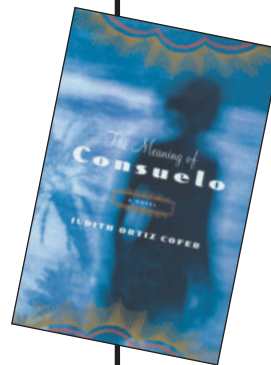
Judith Ortiz Cofer

Born in Puerto Rico in 1952, Judith Ortiz Cofer moved to the United States in her youth due to her father's service in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and in the U.S. Navy during the Cuban Missile Crisis. As an award-winning poet, essayist, and novelist, Cofer explores her bilingual and multicultural life in several autobiographical works, including the novel *The Line of the Sun* (1991) and her personal narrative *Silent Dancing: A Partial Remembrance of a Puerto Rican Childhood* (1990). Her latest novel, *The Meaning of Consuelo* (2003), focuses on a young girl coming of age in Puerto Rico in the 1950s and the tension between the traditional island culture and the increasing presence of American ways of life, often imported by returning war veterans. Called "a novelist of historical compass and sensitivity" by the *New York Times*, Cofer has received the PEN/Martha Albrand Special Citation for Nonfiction, among other awards. She is the Franklin Professor of English at the University of Georgia.★



Photo courtesy of the author

“Her Papá, our abuelo, had had a taste of politics during World War II, when he had become a sort of Angel to Widows and Orphans. It had been his job to break the news of a son or husband's death to the women in his pueblo, as the mayor had become grief-stricken and incapable of performing this most delicate of duties after his only son had been killed early in the war.”



Joe Haldeman

Joe Haldeman was born in Oklahoma City in 1943, and raised in Anchorage, Alaska, and Washington, D.C. The recipient of a B.S. in astronomy from the University of Maryland and an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Iowa, he served in the U.S. Army from 1967-1969 as a combat engineer. Stationed in the central Vietnam highlands, he was severely injured and received the Purple Heart. His first novel, *War Year* (1972), which draws from his own wartime diary, follows Private John Farmer through a year of service in Vietnam. Haldeman turned to science fiction for his second novel, *The Forever War* (1975), about galactic soldiers in combat and the difficulties they face in their preparations to return to an Earth that has aged thousands of years while they have aged only a few. *The Forever War* received the two most prestigious science fiction honors, the Hugo and Nebula awards. Since then, Haldeman has written more than 15 books, including *Mindbridge* (1976), *All My Sins Remembered* (1977), *World Without End: A Star Trek Novel* (1979), *The Hemingway Hoax* (1990), *1968: A Novel* (1994), *Forever Peace* (1997), *Forever Free* (1999), and *Guardian* (2002). He divides his time between Gainesville, Florida, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he is an adjunct professor in the Writing and Humanistic Studies Program at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.★

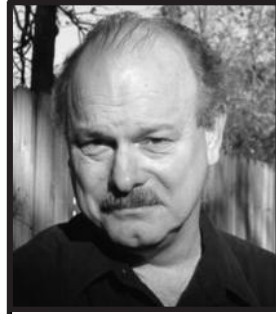
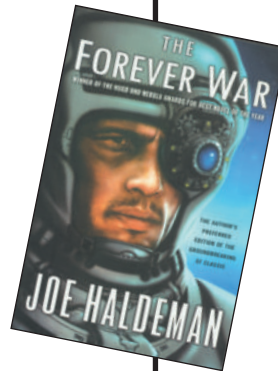


Photo by Gay Haldeman

“ ‘Tonight we’re going to show you eight silent ways to kill a man.’ The guy who said that was a sergeant who didn’t look five years older than me. So if he’d ever killed a man in combat, silently or otherwise, he’d done it as an infant. ”



Barry Hannah

Born in Clinton, Mississippi, in 1942, Barry Hannah earned a B.A. from Mississippi College and a M.F.A. from the University of Arkansas. His first novel, *Geronimo Rex* (1972), won the William Faulkner Prize. In 1978 Hannah published *Airships*, a collection of short stories about the Vietnam War, the Civil War, and the modern South. Widely praised for its raw, lyric voice, the story collection won the Arnold Gingrich Short Fiction Award. Philip Roth called these war stories “masterpieces of their kind.” The following year, Hannah was honored with the prestigious Award in Literature from the American Institute of Arts and Letters. While writing movie scripts in Hollywood for director Robert Altman, Hannah wrote his breakthrough novel *Ray*, a powerful story of a former Navy pilot and doctor struggling to adjust to modern life. Zany as *Catch-22* in its point of view, *Ray* was called “the funniest, weirdest, soul-happiest work of fiction” by the *New York Times Book Review*. Hannah is Director of the M.F.A. Program and Writer-in-Residence at the University of Mississippi, and has won a Guggenheim Fellowship and the Robert Penn Warren Lifetime Achievement Award. He is a member of the Fellowship of Southern Writers. In December 2003, he won the prestigious PEN/ Malamud Award for excellence in the art of the short story.★



Photo courtesy of Grove/Atlantic

“ I heard the repeating rifles
behind me and the shrieks,
but my head was a calm,
green church. I was prepared
to accept the big shadow. But I
didn’t seem to be dying. I felt
my neck. I thrust my forefin-
ger in the hole. ”



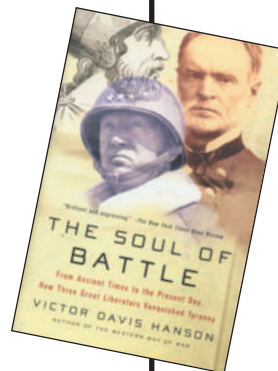
Victor Davis Hanson

Described by *Publishers Weekly* as the potential heir to Stephen Ambrose as “America’s laureate of military history,” Victor Davis Hanson was born in 1953 in Selma, California. He received his Ph.D. in Classics from Stanford University and has been a professor at California State University, Fresno since 1985, where he initiated its Classics Program. He has written extensively on ancient Greek military history and modern warfare. His books include *The Soul of Battle: From Ancient Times to the Present Day*, *How Three Great Liberators Vanquished Tyranny* (1999), *The Western Way of War: Infantry Battle in Classical Greece* (2000), *Carnage and Culture: Landmark Battles in the Rise of Western Power* (2001), *An Autumn of War: What America Learned from September 11 and the War on Terrorism* (2002), and *Ripples of Battle: How Wars of the Past Still Determine How We Fight, How We Live, and How We Think* (2003). He has written for the *Claremont Review of Books*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *New York Times*, *The Weekly Standard*, and writes regular columns for the *National Review Online*. During the 2002-2003 academic year, Hanson served as Visiting Professor of Military History at the United States Naval Academy.★



Photo courtesy of Encounter Books

“What, then, is the soul of battle? A rare thing indeed that arises only when free men march unabashedly toward the heartland of their enemy in hopes of saving the doomed, when their vast armies are aimed at salvation and liberation, not conquest and enslavement.”



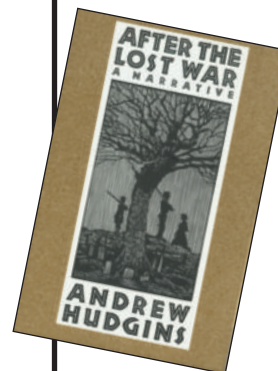
Andrew Hudgins

The son of a West Point Academy graduate, Andrew Hudgins was raised on military bases, mostly in the South. He was educated at Huntingdon College and the University of Alabama, and he earned his M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Iowa in 1983. His poetry collections include *Saints and Strangers* (1985), which was short-listed for the Pulitzer Prize; *After the Lost War: A Narrative* (1988); *The Never-Ending* (1991), a finalist for the National Book Award; *The Glass Hammer: A Southern Childhood* (1994); *Babylon in a Jar* (1998); and *Ecstatic in the Poison* (2003). He is also the author of a book of essays, *The Glass Anvil* (1997). In his poetry, Hudgins writes frankly and movingly about his relationship with his father and his childhood in the rural South. He addresses the soldier's life in *After the Lost War*, a book-length narrative poem about the Civil War that won the Poets' Prize. Pat Conroy wrote of it: "How rare to see poetry with this kind of extraordinary narrative power! The book simply soars." Hudgins's many honors include fellowships from the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Ingram Merrill Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. Hudgins is Humanities Distinguished Professor at The Ohio State University.★



Photo courtesy of the author

“ On leave, I sat on marsh grass, watched
bees tremble into new red blooms,
and thought of how, a boy, I’d put
my finger on the backs of bees.
Engrossed, they didn’t notice me,
and I careful, wouldn’t touch them long,
a second or two, but long enough
to feel the hard hum of their wings. ”



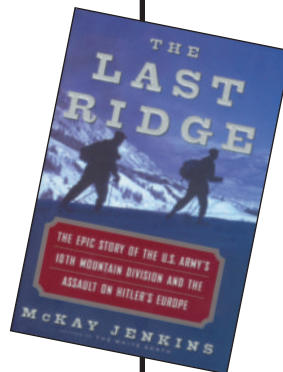
McKay Jenkins

Born in 1963, McKay Jenkins is the author of *The Last Ridge: The Epic Story of the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division and the Assault on Hitler's Europe* (2003). Meticulously researched, the book chronicles the Division's two years of training in Colorado; its role in the recapture of Kiska, an Aleutian island occupied by the Japanese; and its critical role breaking the German Army's Gothic Line in Italy's Apennine Mountains in 1944. A former staff writer for the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*, Jenkins has also written *The White Death: Tragedy and Heroism in an Avalanche Zone* (2000), and *The South in Black and White: Race, Sex, and Literature in the 1940s* (1999), and edited *The Peter Matthiessen Reader* (2000). He is completing a book about a murder in the Canadian Arctic. Jenkins teaches journalism and twentieth-century American literature at the University of Delaware.★



Photo by Katherine Hinckley

“These men were a combination of European panache, Rocky Mountain muscle, and East Coast intelligence: lumberjacks, alpine guides, college skiers, forest rangers, trappers. They formed a remarkably self-assured group of men that took its pride not from a region, such as the famed 36th (Texas) Infantry Division, but from a distinct subculture of outdoorsmen that to the public at large seemed to represent a kind of masculine ideal.”



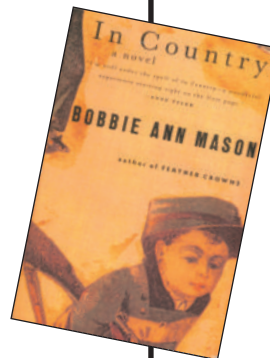
Bobbie Ann Mason

Widely touted as a major literary voice chronicling the changing landscape of the contemporary South, Bobbie Ann Mason was raised on her father's dairy farm outside Mayfield, Kentucky. She took her first writing job at a local newspaper, the *Mayfield Messenger*, in 1960, and went on to receive degrees from the University of Kentucky, the State University of New York at Binghamton, and the University of Connecticut. Her first volume of fiction, *Shiloh and Other Stories* (1982), earned her the 1983 Ernest Hemingway Foundation Award for best first fiction. She used her 1983 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship to write her first novel, *In Country* (1985), which explores a high school girl's quest for knowledge about her father, who died in the Vietnam War just before she was born. In 1989, the novel was adapted into a critically acclaimed film directed by Norman Jewison and starring Bruce Willis. Mason's other books include the novels *Spence + Lila* (1988) and *Feather Crowns* (1993); the memoir *Clear Springs* (1999), a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; and a biography in the Penguin Lives Series, *Elvis Presley* (2003). She is the University of Kentucky's Writer-in-Residence.★



Photo courtesy of Viking Penguin

“At the bottom of the wall is a granite trough, and on the edge of it the sunlight reflects the names just above, in mirror writing, upside down. Flower arrangements are scattered at the base. A little kid says, ‘Look, Daddy, the flowers are dying.’ The man snaps, ‘Some are and some aren’t.’”



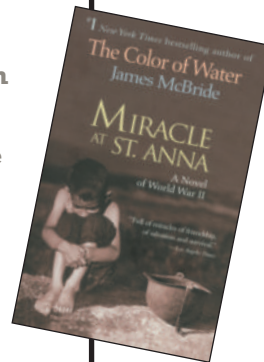
James McBride

Born in 1957, James McBride grew up as one of 12 siblings in the all-black housing projects of Brooklyn. He is the son of a black minister and a Jewish mother, whose efforts to raise her family, while not admitting she was white, were the subject of McBride's award-winning memoir, *The Color of Water* (1997). The book was an American Library Association Notable Book of the Year and remained on the *New York Times* bestseller list for two years. In 2002, *The Color of Water* became the first selection in the New York City Reads Together program. His second book, *Miracle at St. Anna* (2002), is the story of an Italian orphan who befriends a black American soldier in Italy during World War II. The *Dallas Morning News* hailed it as "an outstanding novel," and *The Baltimore Sun* called it "searingly, soaringly beautiful." McBride is a former staff writer for the *Washington Post*, *People Magazine*, and the *Boston Globe*. He received a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University, and is also an award-winning composer, having studied composition at the Oberlin Conservatory of Music in Ohio. In 2004, he was nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve on the National Council on the Arts. ★



Photo by Dennis O'Brien

“It was dawn. The order was to go. One hundred and twenty black soldiers from the 92nd Division bunched behind five tanks and watched them roll toward the water, then clumsily waded in behind them, rifles held high. On the other side, just beyond the river plains and mostly hidden in the heavy mountain forest of the Apuane Alps, five companies of Field-Marshal Albert Kesselring's 148th Brigade Division, seasoned, hardened German troops, watched and waited.”



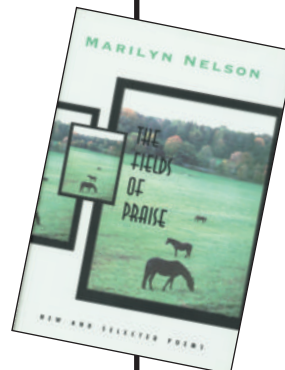
Marilyn Nelson

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, in 1946, Marilyn Nelson was raised on military bases, and as a poet developed a unique perspective on the U.S. Armed Services as the daughter of one of the last of the Tuskegee Airmen. She earned her B.A. from the University of California at Davis, her M.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, and her Ph.D. from the University of Minnesota. Her books include *For the Body* (1978); *Mama's Promises* (1985); *The Homeplace* (1990), which won the Annisfield-Wolf Award and was a finalist for the National Book Award; *The Fields of Praise: New and Selected Poems* (1997), which was a finalist for the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize, the National Book Award, and the PEN Winship Award; and *Carver: A Life in Poems* (2001), which was also a finalist for the National Book Award. She has written two collections of poetry for children. Her other honors include two Pushcart Prizes, two Literature Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship, and the 1990 Connecticut Arts Award. She is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, and has taught most recently at the University of Delaware. ★



Photo by Fran Funk

“ Tuskegee Airmen,
uncles of my childhood,
how shall I live and work
to match your goodness?
Can I do more
than murmur name upon name,
as the daughter
of a thousand proud fathers? ”



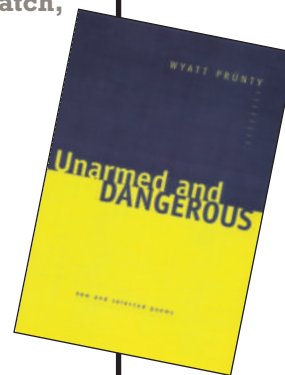
Wyatt Prunty

The son of a World War II veteran, Wyatt Prunty was born in Tennessee in 1947 and raised in Athens, Georgia. After receiving his bachelor's degree in English from Sewanee: The University of the South, he served in the U.S. Navy as a gunnery officer on the USS *Wright* and the USS *Spigle Grove*, serving in the Mediterranean, the Caribbean, and the North and South Atlantic. After his discharge in 1972, Prunty resumed his academic studies, receiving a master's degree in poetry from Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. from Louisiana State University. He has written six volumes of poetry, including *The Times Between* (1982), *What Women Know, What Men Believe* (1986), *The Run of the House* (1993), and *Unarmed and Dangerous: New and Selected Poems* (2000). The *New York Times Book Review* has praised Prunty's poems, stating that "he displays an inherent understanding of the fact that comedy and tragedy, both on the page and off, coexist more often than not." Prunty is Carlton Professor of English at Sewanee: The University of the South where he founded and directs the Sewanee Writers' Conference and edits the Sewanee Writers' Series, which is published in conjunction with Overlook Press. ★



Photo courtesy of Sewanee Writers' Conference

“He could lie on his back and navigate
Across a ceiling as close and clear
As the luminous face of his father's watch,
His father gone, flying for Nimitz
And Bull Halsey.”



Dan Rifenburgh

Born in Elmira, New York, in 1949, the poet Dan Rifenburgh served three years in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War and later worked as a daily newspaper reporter. He was a staff writer for *Soldiers* magazine and also wrote for *Stars and Stripes* and *Army News Feature*. He was an honors graduate from the Journalism program, U.S. Department of Defense Information School. Rifenburgh completed his B.A. at Florida Atlantic University and his M.A. at the University of Florida. He serves as a lecturer for the University of Houston Creative Writing Program. In 2002, his first collection of poetry, *Advent*, was published in London by the Waywiser Press with an introduction by Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Wilbur who said of the collection, "The language of *Advent* often has the force of spare accuracy: it can also stun the reader with a brilliant, slow-fuse image." Pulitzer Prize winner Anthony Hecht also praised the collection, stating, "These poems are startling in their vividness, their originality and solidity." *Advent* has already garnered critical recognition, including the Ormish Award from the Texas Institute of Letters. ★



Photo by Tommy Gay

“ A squadron of pelicans,
Prehistoric remnants, flies over
In perfect ‘V’ formation, remindful,
To the old, of bombers skirting past Dover,
Channel-topping, headed at the Ruhr. ”



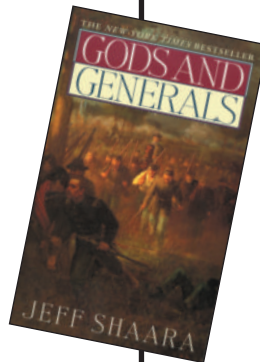
Jeff Shaara

Jeff Shaara was born in 1952 in New Brunswick, New Jersey, and grew up in Tallahassee, Florida. He graduated from Florida State University in 1974, with a degree in criminology. From age 16, he operated a rare coin business and continued in that business until he was 36. When his father, the Pulitzer-winning author Michael Shaara, died in 1988, Jeff Shaara sold his company and focused on managing his father's estate. In 1993, during the production of the film *Gettysburg*, based on his father's novel *The Killer Angels*, Shaara became friends with film director Ron Maxwell, who raised the issue of filming a prequel and sequel to the story of the decisive Civil War battle. After much soul-searching, Shaara decided to undertake the writing task himself. Two years later, he published *Gods and Generals*, the prequel to his father's novel, which quickly became a *New York Times* bestseller. In 1998, his sequel, *The Last Full Measure*, also became a bestseller. His next three novels were also critically acclaimed national bestsellers. *Gone for Soldiers* focused on the Mexican-American War, and *Rise to Rebellion* and *The Glorious Cause* centered on the American Revolution. In 2003, the major motion picture *Gods and Generals* was released by Warner Brothers. Shaara lives in Montana and is now writing a novel set during World War I. ★



Photo by Laurie Lane

“ He raised his head just slightly and looked around him, saw a great field of black shapes. He began to move, slid along the hard ground, moved up alongside one of the shapes, said in a low, hoarse voice, ‘You, there. Are you wounded?’ He waited, then reached out a hand, touched the blue cloth, prodded harder, poked the man’s stiff body, and he understood. ”



Tobias Wolff

Born in 1945 in Birmingham, Alabama, Tobias Wolff is the author of two memoirs. The first, *This Boy's Life* (1989), won the *Los Angeles Times* Book Award and was adapted into a motion picture featuring Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio, and Ellen Barkin. It chronicles Wolff's difficult childhood living with an abusive and violent stepfather. His second memoir, *In Pharaoh's Army: Memories of the Lost War* (1994), is an unflinching account of his military service from 1964-1968, including a tour in Vietnam. Wolff has also written three volumes of short stories, including *The Night in Question* (1996) and *Barracks Thief* (1984), which won the PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction and features a story about paratroopers waiting to be sent to Vietnam. His latest novel, *Old School* (2003), was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction, and other awards. Wolff is the recipient of two Literature Fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Guggenheim Fellowship, and the Whiting Writers Award. He is the Woods Professor of English and Creative Writing at Stanford University.★

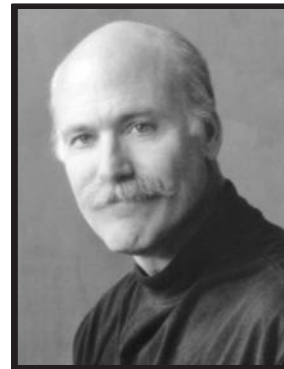
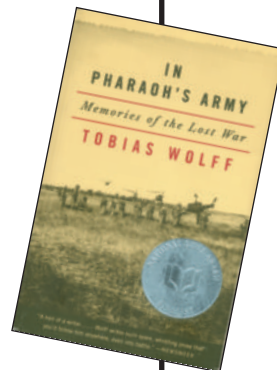


Photo by Giliola Christie

“A shell exploded somewhere outside. We hit the deck, our mouths twisted in dire grins. Two more went off almost together. They weren't very close, but I felt the shock in my chest. We waited for the next one. Then we stood up again, very, very slowly.”



James Bradley

James Bradley studied at the University of Notre Dame and Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan, and earned a degree in East Asian history from the University of Wisconsin. In 2000, his nonfiction book *Flags of Our Fathers* burst onto the national scene, becoming a *New York Times* bestseller. The book details the lives of the six soldiers who raised the American flag on Iwo Jima. One of those men was John “Doc” Bradley — James’s father. Stephen Ambrose said of *Flags of Our Fathers*, “The best battle book I ever read. These stories...fill me with awe.” Bradley’s second book, *Flyboys* (2003), was also a *New York Times* bestseller and tells the story of eight American “flyboys” who were executed on the island next to Iwo Jima in World War II. The ninth pilot evaded capture — his name was George H. W. Bush. Bradley is President of the James Bradley Peace Foundation, which fosters understanding between America and Asia. In 2003, the Secretary of the Navy presented Bradley with the Department of the Navy Superior Public Service Award.★

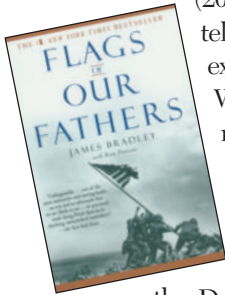


Photo courtesy of the author

Will D. Campbell

The Reverend Will D. Campbell was born in Liberty, Mississippi, in 1924. He served as a medic in the U.S. Army during World War II. After the war, he graduated from the Yale Divinity School and became a national leader for the cause of social justice and civil rights. He is the author of more than a dozen books including his memoir, *Brother to a Dragonfly* (1977), which was hailed as one of the top-ten books of the year by the *New York Times*; was named by *Time* magazine to be one of the most notable works of nonfiction in the 1970s; and won a Christopher Award and the Lillian Smith Award. His other works include the novel *The Glad River* (1982), the history *Providence* (1992), and the essay collection *Soul Among Lions: Musing of a Bootleg Preacher* (1999). In 2000, President Bill Clinton awarded Campbell the National Medal of the Humanities.★

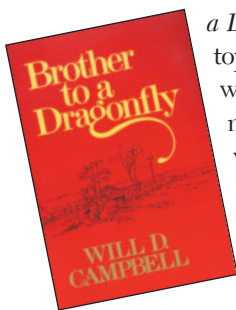


Photo by Judi Marshall, First Run Productions

Andrew Carroll

In 1998, Andrew Carroll founded the Legacy Project, a national, all-volunteer effort to honor and remember those who have served this nation in wartime by seeking out and saving their letters. From this project came Carroll's bestseller *War Letters*, the compelling correspondence of American military men and women, as well as the PBS documentary of the same name. The book features 200 previously unpublished letters from the Civil War, World Wars I and II, Korea, Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, Somalia, and Bosnia. Studs Terkel said of the collection, "These war letters are deeply moving, more revelatory and more powerful than any dispatch from the front. It's the truly felt history of what war is all about." This book came on the heels of Carroll's national bestseller *Letters of a Nation: A Collection of Extraordinary American Letters*. In 1993, Carroll co-founded with the late Nobel Laureate Joseph Brodsky the American Poetry & Literacy Project, a nonprofit organization that distributes hundreds of thousands of free poetry books throughout the country to promote literacy. Carroll lives in Washington, D.C.★

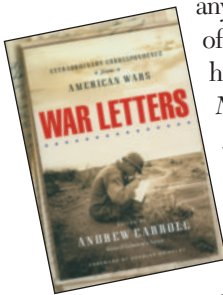


Photo courtesy of the author

Shelby Foote

Born in Greenville, Mississippi, in 1916, Shelby Foote served in the U.S. Army and the Marine Corps during World War II. After the war, he chronicled life in his native South in stories and novels. His first novel, *Tournament*, was published in 1949. Widely regarded for his historical novels, such as *Shiloh* (1952), Foote gained lasting acclaim with the publication of the three-volume history, *The Civil War: A Narrative*, which he wrote over a 20-year span. *Newsweek* praised the work by stating, "history and literature are rarely so thoroughly combined as here." Foote is a three-time Guggenheim Fellow and has served as a lecturer at the University of Virginia and Memphis State University. Foote achieved public fame after his featured appearances in Ken Burns's award-winning documentary, *The Civil War*. In 1992, Foote was awarded the Charles Frankel Prize by the National Endowment for the Humanities.★



Photo by Nancy Crampton

Yusef Komunyakaa

Poet and critic Yusef Komunyakaa was born in Bogalusa, Louisiana, in 1947. He served in the U.S. Army as a journalist in 1969-1970 and was awarded the Bronze Star for his service in Vietnam. His books of poems include *Pleasure Dome: New & Collected Poems, 1975-1999* (2001); *Thieves of Paradise* (1998), and *Neon Vernacular: New & Selected Poems 1977-1989* (1994), for which he received the Pulitzer Prize. He explores his war experiences throughout his poetry, especially in *Dien Cai Dau* (1988). His prose is collected in *Blues Notes: Essays, Interviews & Commentaries* (2000). He also co-edited *The Jazz Poetry Anthology* (1991). His honors include the William Faulkner Prize from the Université de Rennes and a Literature Fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts. He is a professor in the Council of Humanities and Creative Writing Program at Princeton University.★

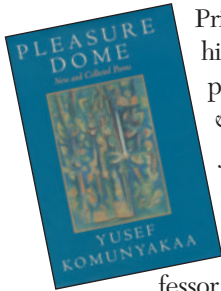


Photo courtesy of the author

Erin McGraw

The daughter of a U.S. Marine who fought in World War II, Erin McGraw grew up outside Los Angeles where she began writing in high school. She is the author of four books of fiction, including the story collections *Lies of the Saints*, *The Baby Tree*, and the forthcoming *The Good Life*. *Lies of the Saints* was selected as a *New York Times* Notable Book, and her work has been featured on National Public Radio's Selected Shorts. She is also the author of *Bodies At Sea*. McGraw has published in *The Atlantic Monthly*, *The Kenyon Review*, and other publications. A former Stegner Fellow at Stanford University, McGraw teaches creative writing and American literature at The Ohio State University. She is married to the poet Andrew Hudgins.★



Photo courtesy of the author

James Salter

James Salter was born in 1925 and raised in New York City. He attended West Point Academy and served as a fighter pilot during World War II and the Korean War. He resigned his commission in 1957 after publishing *The Hunters* (1956), a novel based on his more than 100 combat missions in Korea. Salter's second novel, *The Arm of Flesh* (1961), also focused on the U.S. Air Force. His other work includes *A Sport and a Pastime* (1967); *Solo Faces* (1979); and the short-fiction collection, *Dusk and Other Stories* (1989), which won the PEN/Faulkner Award. The *New York Times* said that Salter's stories "can suggest in a single sentence, an individual's entire history, the complex interplay of longing and fear, hope and need, that has brought about the present." He wrote the screenplay to the acclaimed film *Downhill Racer* (1969), which starred Robert Redford. His memoir, *Burning the Days* (1997), recounts his life in the military and as an award-winning writer.★

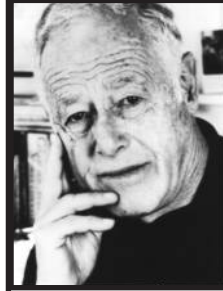
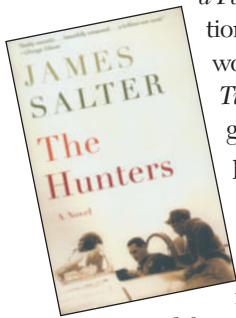


Photo by Linda Girvin

Louis Simpson

Louis Simpson was born in Jamaica, West Indies, in 1923, and immigrated to the United States at age 17. In World War II, he served with the 101st Airborne Division in Europe and received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. Upon his return, he earned his Ph.D. at Columbia University and has spent his career as a poet, professor, and literary critic. The author of more than 20 books, his work includes *The Arrivistes: Poems 1940-1049* (1949); *At the End of the Open Road, Poems* (1963), for which he won the Pulitzer Prize; *Three on the Tower: The Lives and Worlds of Ezra Pound, T. S. Eliot and William Carlos Williams* (1975), which brought him wide acclaim as a literary critic; and the memoir *The King My Father's Wreck* (1995). Simpson has received fellowships from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, *Hudson Review*, Guggenheim Foundation, and the National Endowment for the Arts. His most recent collection, *The Owner of the House: New Collected Poems 1940-2001*, was nominated for the National Book Award.★

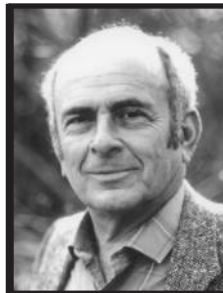
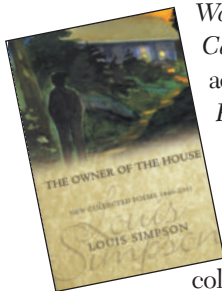


Photo courtesy of BOA Editions

William Jay Smith

Of Choctaw descent, William Jay Smith was born in 1918 in Winnfield, Louisiana, and was raised in Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, where his father played in the U.S. Army Band. When World War II broke out, Smith enlisted in the U.S. Navy and was transferred to Oahu where his father was also stationed. But they were soon separated — the son headed into the war and his father into civilian life. Smith recalls his youth and young adulthood in *Army Brat: A Memoir* (1980). Smith studied at Washington University, Columbia University, and at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. The author of 10 collections of poetry, as well as numerous books of translations, Smith was the U.S. Poet Laureate from 1968 until 1970. His most recent poetry collection is *The Cherokee Lottery* (2000), which concerns the removal of the southern tribes. He has won awards from the French Academy, the Swedish Academy, and the Hungarian government.★

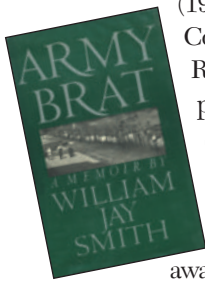


Photo courtesy of William Jay Smith and Curstone Press

Richard Wilbur

Born in New York City in 1921, Richard Wilbur is a renowned poet, translator, literary critic, and editor. A veteran of World War II, Wilbur was trained as an Army cryptographer and served as a front-line infantryman in Italy, France, and Germany. After the war, he obtained his M.A. from Harvard in 1947, the same year his first book of poems was published, *The Beautiful Changes and Other Poems*. An accomplished editor and translator, Wilbur has published translations of Molière and compiled such anthologies as *Poe: Complete Poems* (1959). The winner of numerous honors, including the Frost Medal, two Guggenheim Fellowships, and the Wallace Stevens Award, Wilbur's original collections include *Things of This World* (1956), for which he received the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award; and *New and Collected Poems* (1988), which also won the Pulitzer Prize. In 1987, he was named Poet Laureate of the United States.★

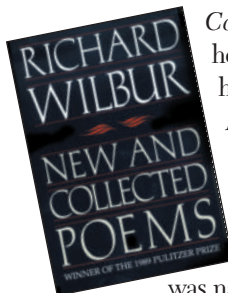


Photo by Stathis Orphanos

OPERATION HOMECOMING

Writing the wartime experience

Anthology Submission Guidelines

As part of *Operation Homecoming*, the National Endowment for the Arts will support the printing of an anthology of wartime writing by active U.S. military personnel and their immediate families. The anthology will be sold in bookstores and will be distributed free by the Arts Endowment to military installations, schools, and libraries. The submission deadline has been extended to March 31, 2005.

The Arts Endowment has no preconceived ideas about the content of the anthology. There are no restrictions upon genre — poems, letters, personal narratives, stories, memoir, journal writing, and other literary forms are all welcome. Some works may address actual combat, others may focus on life on the homefront. Many works may be personal — a soldier's or a spouse's attempt to capture and clarify a singularly challenging moment in life. Some of it may rise to literature — vivid accounts of experience that arrest the reader's attention and linger in the memory. All of it will have historical value as the testimony of men and women who saw the events directly. *Operation Homecoming* will capture these individual accounts and preserve them for the public record. American letters will be richer for their addition.

The National Endowment for the Arts will not be able to publish all of the works sent due to space limitations, but the Arts Endowment will ensure that after the project is completed, the submissions are deposited at an appropriate government archive for the education of future generations of Americans.

SUBMISSION STYLE

Submissions should be no longer than 50 typescript, double-spaced, numbered pages. Materials must be legible and clearly reproduced. Please use font sizes no smaller than 11 and no larger than 14 points. Please use paper that measures 8-1/2 by 11 inches.

Please include a cover sheet with each submission that contains a legal name, address, phone number, and email address if applicable. Because of troop rotation and deployments, it is particularly important to have a current email address or permanent address to respond to regarding submissions.

Copies of submissions cannot be returned. Please keep a copy for yourself.

SUBMISSION ADDRESS

Submissions can be emailed to:
submissions@operationhomecoming.org

Or mailed to:
National Endowment for the Arts
Operation Homecoming Anthology
Suite 519
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20506

**Tuskegee Airmen,
uncles of my childhood,
how shall I live and work
to match your goodness?
Can I do more
than murmur name upon name,
as the daughter
of a thousand proud fathers?
— Marilyn Nelson**

A Great Nation Deserves Great Art.

www.operationhomecoming.org

