

**Note to Program Organizers:** We created this draft press release to help you publicize your Talking Service discussion program. We hope you find it useful.

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** [HOST SITE CONTACT NAME / PHONE NUMBER / EMAIL ADDRESS]

**VETERANS INVITED TO READING AND DISCUSSION PROGRAM AT  
[NAME OF HOST ORGANIZATION]**

[CITY, DATE] In a unique collaboration, [NAME OF HOST ORGANIZATION] has joined forces with [NAME OF STATE HUMANITIES COUNCIL] to offer *Talking Service*, a new reading and discussion program for veterans to reflect on their service and the transition to civilian life. The program will run from [DATES].

[QUOTE FROM STATE COUNCIL PROGRAM OFFICER OR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ABOUT IMPORTANCE AND/OR GOALS OF TALKING SERVICE.]

At [NAME OF HOST ORGANIZATION], veterans will come together over the course of [INSERT NUMBER OF SESSIONS] sessions to discuss a variety of readings about military service from the book *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian*, published by the Great Books Foundation. Each selection serves as a jumping off point for vets to reflect on their own experiences in the military and returning home. The discussions will be facilitated by [NAME OF FACILITATOR] of [TITLE AND AFFILIATION].

[QUOTE FROM SOMEONE AT HOST ORGANIZATION ABOUT WHY THEY ARE OFFERING TALKING SERVICE.]

*Talking Service* is free and open to past and present members of the Armed Forces [CUSTOMIZE IF OPEN TO VETERANS FAMILY MEMBERS, ETC.]. For more information about the program and how to join, please contact [HOST SITE CONTACT] at [PHONE NUMBER & EMAIL ADDRESS].

*Talking Service* at [NAME OF HOST ORGANIZATION] is part of a national initiative by the Great Books Foundation and state humanities councils to offer veterans the opportunity to reflect on their service and talk openly about their challenges and future aspirations. It is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities *Standing Together* initiative, which encourages humanities programs that focus on the history, experience, or meaning of war and military service. The Great Books Foundation donated copies of *Standing Down: From Warrior to Civilian* to state humanities councils, who in turn provide [CUSTOMIZE AS NECESSARY: training, a facilitator honorarium, and books] to participating groups in their states.

**About [NAME OF STATE HUMANITIES COUNCIL]:** [INSERT COUNCIL MISSION STATEMENT AND WEBSITE].

**About The Great Books Foundation:** *The Great Books Foundation is an independent nonprofit 501 (c)(3) educational organization. For almost 70 years we have fostered respectful, open discussion of literature that promotes civil discourse, civic engagement, and social justice. We are committed to creating a world of readers and thinkers by fostering an inquiry-based approach to reading and discussion for students and adults in all walks of life. [www.greatbooks.org](http://www.greatbooks.org)*

**About the National Endowment for the Humanities:** *Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy, and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at: [www.neh.gov](http://www.neh.gov).*