

## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 25, 2017 Harrisonburg, VA

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### Veterans Day Programs Planned at Massanutten Regional Library

In honor of our nation's Veterans, Massanutten Regional Library will host multiple programs during the week leading up to Veterans Day, November 6–11. All programs will be held in the ground floor meeting rooms at MRL's Central Library, in downtown Harrisonburg.

Monday–Wednesday, November 6-8 @ 3:00 PM Daily:

The week begins with screenings of episodes from the Ken Burns/Lynn Novick 10-part documentary film, "The Vietnam War." As part of a recently-announced grant from the American Library Association, PBS and WETA, Washington, DC, MRL will screen selected episodes from 3:00-5:00 PM on each of the following days: Monday, November 6; Tuesday, November 7; and Wednesday, November 8.

Thursday, November 9 @ 6:00 PM:

MRL and WVPT Public Media will co-host "Reflections on Vietnam" on Thursday, November 9<sup>th</sup>. Combining song, personal story, and documentary film, this multi-part program will explore different aspects of the Vietnam War through the eyes of members of our local communities.

6:00 PM      The Harrisonburg Harmonizers will sing patriotic songs and light refreshments will be served.

6:30 PM      Holley Watts will share stories, poems and memories of her year in Vietnam as part of the Supplemental Recreational Activities Overseas program (SRAO) of the American Red Cross. Known colloquially as the "Donut Dollies," the young women of the SRAO served in Vietnam as morale builders for the troops, tasked with creating diversions for soldiers

in base camps, landing zones, and field hospitals. While the Donut Dollies have often been overlooked by history, Holley has been an active voice in telling the story of their role during the Vietnam War.

- 7:00 PM Premier Screening of WVPT Public Media's "Vietnam: Reflections of War – Episode 6." Produced by WVPT and featuring local veterans, "Vietnam: Reflections of War" was created as a companion series to the longer Burns/Novick documentary. Episode 6: "Until We Meet Again" will never air as part of the series, as it is considered a "director's cut." This episode can only be seen during this premiere or via the DVD set.
- 7:45 PM Presentation of thank you gifts honoring those veterans who interviewed with WVPT.

Saturday, November 11 @ 1:00 PM:

The final event of the week will be a family-friendly program featuring 94-year-old World War II veteran PFC. Tommy Tucker Showalter. Mr. Showalter will share the story of his journey from a farm in the Shenandoah Valley to serve as an infantryman in Patton's Third Army during the final months of the war in Europe. The recipient of a Purple Heart and Bronze Star, Mr. Showalter is a natural storyteller, and his stories are fascinating for both children and adults. This program will be held in the Community Youth Center on the second floor of the Central Library.

"The Vietnam War" programs are offered as part of a grant from the American Library Association, PBS and WETA, Washington, DC. In addition, we acknowledge the enthusiastic support of our co-host WVPT Public Media and their commitment to telling the story of local Vietnam Veterans.

These programs are also made possible in part by the generous support of Tactical & Survival Specialties, Inc. (TSSi).

As always, all programs hosted by Massanutten Regional Library are free and open to the public, and you do not need a library card to attend.

## About Massanutten Regional Library

Massanutten Regional Library serves the residents of the City of Harrisonburg and Rockingham and Page Counties, with branches located in Bridgewater, Broadway, Elkton, Grottoes, Harrisonburg, Luray and the town of Shenandoah. Library patrons have access to over 297,000 books, dvds, audiobooks, ebooks, online learning and research tools, and other resources. Residents can obtain a free library card by visiting their local MRL branch.

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