



**NEWS RELEASE**  
**North Olympic Library System**  
**2210 South Peabody Street**  
**Port Angeles, WA 98362**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Date: October 31, 2018  
Contact: Mary Côté, Customer Service Specialist  
360.683.1161; MCoté@nols.org  
Re: *Coming Home: How the Humanities Help Soldiers Find Meaning After War*  
Attached: *HW-LOGO.jpg, Soldier.jpg*

Jeb Wyman, a speaker from the Humanities Washington Speakers Bureau, will present *Coming Home: How the Humanities Help Soldiers Find Meaning After War* at the North Olympic Library System (NOLS). Wyman will speak at the Port Angeles Main Library on Thursday, November 8 at 6pm, the Sequim Branch Library on Friday, November 9 at 6pm, and the Forks Branch Library on Saturday, November 10 at 1pm.

What is the true nature of war, and how does the experience of war affect the human heart? How have the myths and realities of combat, and the invisible wounds of war, been portrayed over the ages? In his presentations, Jeb Wyman will discuss stories of the men and women who served during the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, incorporating experiences and insights from famous writers and philosophers about war and its aftermath. Drawing from hundreds of hours spent with veterans, Wyman discusses the profound moral and emotional impact the experience of war has had on them, and how war forever changes those who return from it. Whether it was fought on horseback in the Civil War or in Humvees in Baghdad, veterans face grave challenges after war—haunted by memory, burdened by guilt, searching for meaning, and trying to re-join a society they believe cannot understand the reality of war. Wyman also

touches on how studying war through the lens of the humanities may help both veterans and civilians heal the wounds of war.

### **About the Speaker**

Jeb Wyman has been a faculty member for over twenty years at Seattle Central College, and has been reading the stories by his student veterans since the start of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. He has interviewed over seventy veterans for a collection of first-person accounts, *What They Signed Up For: True Stories by Ordinary Soldiers*, which records not only their experiences of war, but why our veterans chose military service and how coming home from war remains the greatest challenge for many of them. He is the academic director of the Clemente Course for Veterans at Antioch University, a new program for veterans who study history, philosophy, art, and literature to gain insight into their experiences, prepare them to pursue further higher education, and build community with other veterans.

### **About Humanities Washington**

Humanities Washington sparks conversation and critical thinking using story as a catalyst, nurturing thoughtful and engaged communities across the state. Speakers Bureau is one of Humanities Washington's oldest and most popular programs. A roster of 31 cultural experts and scholars provides low-cost, high-quality public presentations across the state, encouraging audiences to think, learn and engage in conversation. For more about Speakers Bureau, visit [www.humanities.org/programs/speakers](http://www.humanities.org/programs/speakers).

### **More Information**

For resources that assist veterans, visit [www.sos.wa.gov/library/livingwell/veterans.aspx](http://www.sos.wa.gov/library/livingwell/veterans.aspx). For additional information about this program, visit [www.nols.org](http://www.nols.org), call 360.417.8500, or send an email to [Discover@nols.org](mailto:Discover@nols.org). The Port Angeles Main Library is located at 2210 South Peabody Street. The Sequim Branch Library is located at 630 North Sequim Avenue. The Forks Branch Library is located at 171 Forks Avenue South.

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*“Coming Home” will be presented at the Port Angeles, Sequim Libraries, and Forks Libraries.*

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