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**The National Veterans Museum Announces Debuts “100 Faces of War Experience: Portraits and Words of Americans Who Served in Iraq and Afghanistan”**  
*Exhibition Launches Veterans Day, Captures Full Spectrum of Americans Who Served in Recent Wars*

**Chicago (Oct. X, 2014)** - The National Veterans Art Museum (NVAM) is pleased to announce that “100 Faces of War Experience: Portraits and Words of Americans Who Served in Iraq and Afghanistan,” a project started in 2005 by Massachusetts-based artist Matt Mitchell, will debut at the museum on Veteran’s Day, November 11. The exhibit will run until May 1, 2015.

“Matt Mitchell has created an exciting visual experience personifying post 9-11 veterans,” said Ash Kyrie, the curator for the exhibition. The traveling exhibition, which makes its first stop at the NVAM, allows visitors to look into the eyes of a full spectrum of veterans who served in America’s most recent wars. It’s our hope that the exhibition engages open contemplation and discussion about the experiences of war.” This is the first exhibition of an art installation that has been nine year’s in the making.

In “100 Faces of War Experience: Portraits and Words of Americans Who Served in Iraq and Afghanistan,” Mitchell captures the words and portraits of a cross section of Americans who served. Working with Dr. Dan Burland, a sociologist specializing in military and the family, Mitchell determined what the full spectrum of those who served, as well those who died while serving, would resemble in terms of ranks, jobs, gender and race. The result was a compilation of 100 “stories” of military and civilian men and women, 10 of whom died while serving. Mitchell met with each individual to paint his or her 26” x 36” oil on canvas portrait, each taking between 40-80 hours to complete. Those Mitchell painted were allowed to contribute up to 250 words about their experience to accompany the portrait, while families of surviving veterans provided their words. It was Mitchell’s absolute intent neither to edit nor to try and influence what any person, or family member, said; this was critical to Mitchell’s work.

“The ‘100 Faces of War Experience: Portraits and Words of Americans Who Served in Iraq and Afghanistan’ exhibition is not meant to be a gallery of people who represent ideal service, but rather is meant to acknowledge the gravity of war and of service,” said Mitchell. “It is my hope that the sum total of portraits and words in ‘100 Faces’ will speak profoundly of the weight of the American experience of war.”

The exhibition at the NVAM has been made possible through the generous support of Bank of America and J. Crow Co., manufacturer of J. Crow’s® Lugol’s Solution, which is funding the shipment of all artwork in the “100 Faces” traveling exhibition.

“We are proud to support “100 Faces of War Experience: Portraits and Words of Americans Who Served in Iraq and Afghanistan” exhibition at the National Veterans Art Museum, said Tim Maloney, Chicago-based Illinois president of Bank of America. “This exhibition will allow visitors

to reflect upon the different faces of war and learn about their experiences—from civilian journalists and contractors to military personnel.”

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Before exhibiting at the NVAM, while the project was still in progress, “100 Faces of War Experience: Portraits and Words of Americans Who Served in Iraq and Afghanistan” was shown in more than 20 venues, including a showing at the U.S. Congress as well as a viewing of a single portrait and its statement at the National Portrait Gallery.

For additional information on the “100 Faces of War Experience: Portraits and Words of Americans Who Served in Iraq and Afghanistan” exhibition and the NVAM, located at 4041 N. Milwaukee Avenue, call 312.326.0270 or visit [nvam.org](http://nvam.org) or [100facesofwarexperience.org](http://100facesofwarexperience.org).

#### **About National Veterans Art Museum**

In October of 1981, a group of Vietnam veterans put together an exhibition of artwork based on their war experiences. The success of that show led to the establishment of the Vietnam Veterans Art Group. Fifteen years later, with a building donated, the National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum was launched. In 2003, the museum began accepting work by veterans of all conflicts and, in 2010, changed its name to the National Veterans Art Museum. The museum made its home in Portage Park in 2012.

While the NVAM is one of the only museums in the world to collect and exhibit artwork exclusively created by veterans in a permanent exhibition, it also provides a great deal of programming for veterans and their families and for the community at large. The NVAM provides guided tours, teacher resources, workshops for students and student groups, and family-focused interactive programs. Art programming that explores the impact of war is a shared experience for veterans and civilians. Creative community workshops take place the second Saturday of every month. The museum also offers a free after-school drop-in arts education program every Friday.

The National Veterans Art Museum, located at 4041 N Milwaukee Avenue, inspires greater understanding of the real impact of war with a focus on Vietnam. The museum collects, preserves and exhibits art inspired by combat and created by veterans. The National Veterans Art Museum is dedicated to the collection, preservation, and exhibition of art inspired by combat and created by veterans. It is home to more than 2,500 works of art by more than 270 artists. Personal narratives and artistic representations of war (including paintings, photographs, sculptures, poetry, and music) provide transformative learning opportunities in art, history, and civics.

For further details, visit [www.nvam.org](http://www.nvam.org) and follow NVAM on [Facebook.com/NationalVeteransArtMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/NationalVeteransArtMuseum).

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