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WISE FOOLS – Wisdom on the Folly of War

Landmark Center celebrates World Storytelling Day, March 20 and 24

SAINT PAUL, Minn. (Feb. 28, 2018)—Every year, since 2003, World Storytelling Day events take place on or around March 20 in more than 25 countries. Storytelling is often thought of as fairytales, fables, and oral history, but it is also commonly used to foster peace and understanding, community building, healing, and in advocacy work. Each year a global theme complements the principal concept behind WSD, "If I can hear your story, it's harder for me to hate you." This year's global theme is "Wise Fools."

In the evening's stories, the global theme will be interpreted through the lens of "Wisdom on the Folly of War" and will frequently feature 'those who speak truth from the heart even in the face of popular opposition.' In the wake of the Burns/Novick film, *Vietnam*, the stories of this evening examine the war from multiple perspectives. The event is dedicated to Dr. Harry Skornia, founder of public broadcasting, and an ardent peace activist.

The event begins, at 6 p.m., with an information fair outside the F.K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium, with storytelling organizations, Twin Cities PBS, Minnesota Humanities Center, as well as Veterans for Peace (VFP) and other member groups of Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers. Storytelling begins at 7 p.m. in the F.K. Weyerhaeuser Auditorium.

These World Storytelling Day events are free, but donations to Veterans for Peace, in honor of Frank Kellogg, will be accepted. Kellogg helped engineer the Kellogg-Briand Pact, signed in Paris 90 years ago to outlaw war. He is the only Minnesotan to ever receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

March 20 Storytellers:

- **Larry Johnson:** WSD host and coordinator, Vietnam unarmed medic, past President of VFP, and author of *Sixty-One, 61 stories calling for less war, more walking, and no arguing on veteran care*
- **Allan Bostelmann:** Infantry veteran, licensed clinical social worker emeritus, facilitator for Veteran Healing Memories workshops
- **Father Harry Bury:** anti-war University of Minnesota Newman Center priest in the 1960s, author of *An Invitation to Think and Feel Differently*
- **Phuoc Thi Minh Tran:** award-winning author, the first Vietnamese immigrant to become a librarian in Minnesota
- **Chante Wolf:** award-winning photographer, writer, artist, and educator, served 12 years in the Air Force and Desert Storm in 1991, activist with Women's Veteran Initiative
- **John Varone:** Vietnam Veteran, musician, former national VFP board member, honorary member of the Mendota Dakota Community, and leader of veteran flag carrying at Pow Wow
- **Nothando Zulu:** Founder/Director of Black Storytellers Alliance and civil rights activist

RSVPs are not required, but encouraged. The reception and information tables open at 6 p.m., and the storytelling program begins at 7 p.m. Seats for RSVPs will be held until 6:30 p.m. Questions and RSVPs can be addressed to Larry Johnson at larryjvfp@gmail.com.

March 24 - Children's Activities:

Storytellers will share age appropriate classic tales of the 'wise fool' from multiple cultural traditions, 10-11:30 a.m. This event is also free, and no reservations are required.

About Landmark Center

Landmark Center is a dynamic, historic cultural center and central gathering place in downtown Saint Paul. It is owned and sponsored by Ramsey County and managed by Minnesota Landmarks, the nonprofit programming and management agency for the building. Landmark Center is located at 75 West 5th Street, on Rice Park and is accessible to those with impaired mobility. Parking is available on street and in nearby Lawson, Science Museum and RiverCentre Ramps. For more information call 651.292.3063 or visit www.landmarkcenter.org.

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