

**NO FEE — Plus, each attendee to receive \$25 gas card and complimentary lunch!
Registration is limited. Act now!**

COVERING THE NEW VETERANS

Brought to you by the Robert R. McCormick Foundation and the Poynter Institute

**MAY 8 IN SPRINGFIELD
& MAY 10 IN CHICAGO**



More than 2 million American troops have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan since the start of American operations there more than a decade ago. Many Veterans of those wars have returned home; many more will return in the months and years ahead, seeking jobs, housing and health care for themselves and their families. What the New Veterans find, however, is that government cannot meet those needs. That's why a nationwide effort is underway to persuade private agencies and businesses to fill the gap. This day-long program, offered in Springfield on Wednesday, May 8, and in Arlington Heights on Friday, May 10, is designed to help journalists tell the stories of America's New Veterans and their efforts to fully rejoin their communities.

*The Springfield session will be held at the Illinois Press Association headquarters,
900 Community Drive, Springfield.*

LIMIT 45 attendees.

*The Chicago session will be held at The Daily Herald,
155 E. Algonquin Rd., Arlington Heights.*

LIMIT 50 attendees.



*All attendees must register in advance (for free)
by emailing Barry Locher,
Illinois Press Foundation,
at blocher@illinoispress.org*

See next page for more information regarding speakers and program

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Seminar faculty:

Erica J. Borggren, Director, Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs

Kimberly Mitchell, Deputy Director, Dixon Center for Military and Veterans Community Services

Laura Gallagher Watkin, Director, Assisting Veterans & Military Families | Warrior 2
Warrior Volunteer Vets | Families of the Fallen

Lindy Carrow, Research Associate, Social IMPACT Research Center at Heartland Alliance

Session moderator: Butch Ward, senior faculty, the Poynter Institute.

Plus, first-hand Veteran stories are anticipated at each location.

Seminar Agenda

9:30 - 11:00 a.m. Who Are the New Veterans? ~ How well does the public know its returning Veterans? A host of experiences and factors shape the men and women who are seeking full integration into the community after years of service: military life, battlefield experience, training, skills, preparation for returning home, family situations, health challenges, etc.

11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. What Do Veterans Really Need? (And Are They Getting it?) ~ For Veterans to be fully integrated into their communities, they need help in a number of basic areas: employment, education, housing and physical and mental health care. We discuss the obvious -- and not so obvious -- needs of the returning Veteran and the obstacles to addressing those needs.

12:30 - 1:15 p.m. Lunch

1:15 - 2:30 p.m. Filling the Gaps: Can Public-Private Partnerships Be The Veterans' Answer? ~ In Illinois and across the nation, private organizations and businesses are being urged to join government agencies in providing vital services to Veterans and their families. What has experience taught us so far about the private-public strategy? Are best intentions resulting in improved access to services for Veterans?

2:30 - 3:00 p.m. What Do We Do Now ~ Butch Ward leads the group in a discussion of story possibilities inspired by the day's work.

3:00 p.m. Adjourn