



THE WAR  
HORSE

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January - March 2025

# Quarterly Impact Report



## A NOTE FROM THOMAS

Our team recently celebrated nine years of impact at The War Horse. Thank you to our supporters who helped us reach this incredible milestone.

In our first quarter, we grew our team and welcomed Kim Vo as our assistant managing editor. She will lead our contributing writers' program and make it possible for us to mentor and publish even more first-person Reflections by veterans and military families.

This year, we've partnered with the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern to publish a "beat desert" case study exploring the intersection of military bases and news deserts. This novel research will help us expand our programs and build on our 2023 findings with the University of Chicago, which explored how the decline in military reporting jeopardizes national security.

## Funder Spotlight

### KNIGHT MEDIA FORUM - March 2025 - Miami, FL

The War Horse attended this year's Knight Media Forum, which brought together over 1,000 civic leaders, philanthropic funders, journalists, scholars, industry experts, and government officials.

Through provocative discussions and networking, new connections were made, new ideas were sparked, and we left feeling inspired to tackle the work and our important mission for the year ahead.

Knight Foundation is a funder of The War Horse, and we are so grateful for their contributions to support our hardworking newsroom.

## Engagement



On March 6, The War Horse held an evening with retired Marine Sgt. Maj. Carlton Kent at the Army Navy Club in Washington, D.C., hosted by board members Michele Flournoy and Sue Hoppin.

This intimate gathering featured a conversation with Thomas Brennan and Kent that covered the Marine Corps' impact on his life and future when he joined at a young age as well as the joy and inspiration he gained leading soldiers in his career.

He encouraged event attendees to "stay positive" during turbulent times.

This event was a fundraiser for our upcoming Writing Seminar for Black Veterans. Learn more [here](#), and consider [donating](#) to this impactful program so that we can bring their important stories to life.



[thewarhorse.org](http://thewarhorse.org)



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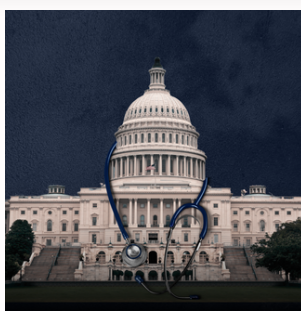


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## Top News Story

**The Battle Over Veterans' Health Care: How the Republican Majority Hopes to Reshape VA**

GOP Wants to Let More Veterans Choose Their Doctors. Democrats Argue It's Too Costly and Will Disrupt Quality of Care.

By **Anne Marshall-Chalmers**



## Top Reflection

**Fort Moore Was Named After My Parents. A Letter Mom Wrote Shows Why It Shouldn't Go Back to Benning**

My Dad was a commander in the Vietnam War. My Mom changed how the military cares for widows.

By **Steve Moore**

## Contributing Writer Spotlight



**Allison Blake**

**My Brother Was Beyond Loved. If Only He Knew He Was More Than a 'Man in Uniform'**

My Reflection helped me heal, but it also was to tell my brother: You said to forget you, but—too bad, so sad—because now your story is out there, and people will know you. I hope people can read it and connect or rethink things if they feel they are in a bad place.

