

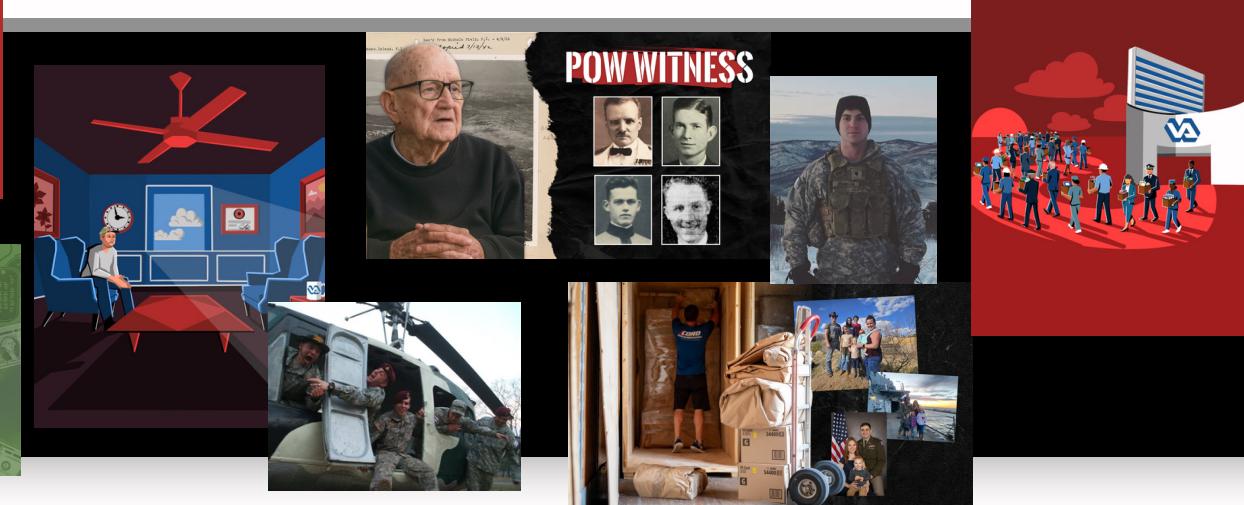


○ ○ ○

July - September 2025

# Quarterly Impact Report

## THE WAR HORSE



## A NOTE FROM THOMAS

This summer has been a time of deep turmoil and uncertainty in our country, and our team at The War Horse has published some of the year's most impactful journalism and reflections. From record-breaking readership and page views to powerful investigations that shaped national conversations about the evolving landscape of VA health care, our mission to close the military-civilian divide has never felt more urgent—or more important.

Our team continued growing our body of first-person reflections from veterans and military families, exploring themes of moral injury, leadership, and the enduring cost of service. These essays resonated deeply with our readership, sparking dialogue among troops, families, and civilians who often view the world through very different lenses. In short, our journalism helps them better understand the burdens and the bonds of military life.

Reporter Leah Rosenbaum's investigations on deferred resignations and VA mental health care caps exemplified that commitment. Leah leveraged the Freedom of Information Act work to uncover that more than 10,000 VA employees—including nurses, pharmacists, and psychologists—were scheduled to resign by the end of September. That reporting sparked discussions across Facebook, Reddit, and internal VA channels. One reader wrote:

"Your transparency and data were far more encompassing than any one of us staff members had heard to date. The War Horse is my favorite subscription to read... Keep up the fantastic work!"

In a year marked by division, our team continues to bring people together through courage, truth, and an unwavering commitment to public service. Thank you for supporting this valuable work and our incredibly talented team. Onward!



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



[contactus@thewarhorse.org](mailto:contactus@thewarhorse.org)



○ ○ ○ ○

July - September 2025

# Quarterly Impact Report

## THE WAR HORSE



POW WITNESS



## Pat Tillman Leadership Summit

The importance of storytelling was a key theme when The War Horse joined the Pat Tillman Foundation in July to welcome the new class of Tillman Scholars, a group of remarkable military service members, veterans, and spouses.

War Horse founder Thomas Brennan helped kick off the Leadership Summit by interviewing Marie Tillman, who founded the foundation named after her late husband, former NFL player-turned-soldier Pat Tillman, who was killed in Afghanistan. They were joined by journalist Jon Krakauer, who spoke about the importance of telling stories and the responsibility that comes along with it.

The War Horse-led session, "Empowerment Through Storytelling," highlighted the importance of vulnerability and storytelling and how to prepare to do both.

The impact of Pat Tillman's life and legacy was at the center of the event along with advice on how sharing their experiences and goals can help improve the world.



## Congratulations to Our Fellow

War Horse contributor Jennifer Brookland was named one of 2025's Top 10 Veterans in Journalism by Military Veterans in Journalism.

Jennifer is a 2022 War Horse fellow. She received a master's in journalism from Columbia University after serving as a special agent in the Air Force. She's covered military and veterans' issues for North Carolina Public Radio and child welfare for the Detroit Free Press.

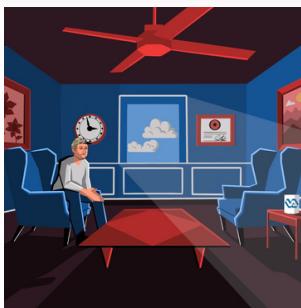
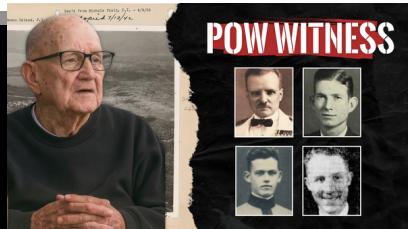
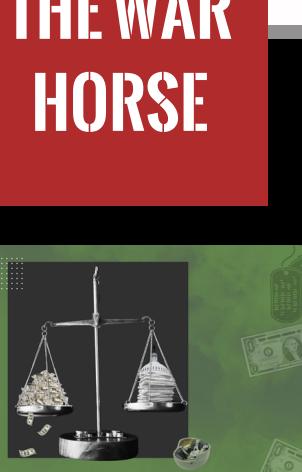


# THE WAR HORSE

○ ○ ○

July - September 2025

# Quarterly Impact Report



## Top News Story

### 'We Need to Terminate Treatment': VA Mental Health Providers Say They Are Under Pressure to Limit Care

Veterans Affairs officials insist there are no caps on mental health care, but providers in multiple states disagree.

By Leah Rosenbaum



## Top Reflection

### My Job Was Army Cook. But Ranger School Didn't Care, and I Wasn't Going Home Without a Tab

I was always the outsider, the cook with no business trying to be a Ranger. But I endured. I chewed coffee grinds like dip, and ran on spite.

By Matt Stone

## Contributing Writer Spotlight

### **Valerie Suttee**

#### Fear and Uncertainty Followed the Sept. 11 Attacks. What Was Real and What Was a Good Headline?



I was inspired to write this reflection after years of being conflicted about two truths in my life: my life was forever changed by the attacks on September 11th, and after years of war, I am very fortunate.

I would not be here without the support I received at the Writing Seminar. Thanks to the program I believe that I am a writer and that my stories are worth telling.