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October-December 2025

Quarterly Impact Report

THE WAR HORSE



A NOTE FROM THOMAS

Ten years ago, I was filing the articles of incorporation and filming a Kickstarter video that brought The War Horse to life. The feeling is surreal, and I'm grateful to the thousands of people who have believed in The War Horse over the years. Ten years is a long time, and it's an accomplishment that few entrepreneurs and businesses ever celebrate. We've partnered with Fortune 50 companies, Ivy League Universities, and leading foundations across our country. Thank you all for being a part of that journey. My greatest joy as the founder of The War Horse has been witnessing teammates over the years pour their hearts and passions into my dream, transforming it into our shared dream.

This year, we traveled to Lucky Spur Ranch in Justin, Texas, where we trained our 100th fellow during our 8th writing seminar, which focused on the experiences of Black veterans. Writing seminars are my favorite program at The War Horse, and few things bring me as much joy as witnessing a new writer find the confidence to share their experiences with the world. I remain honored to be a steward of our archive of reflections, which now numbers nearly 500 reflections. In my opinion, this collection is a national treasure that helps fulfill our mission to bridge the military-civilian divide.



thewarhorse.org



contactus@thewarhorse.org

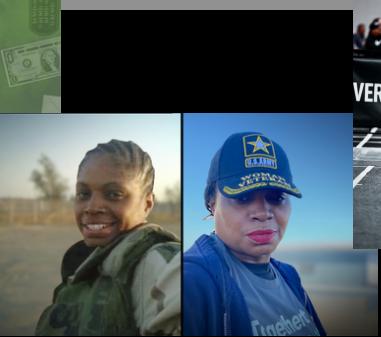
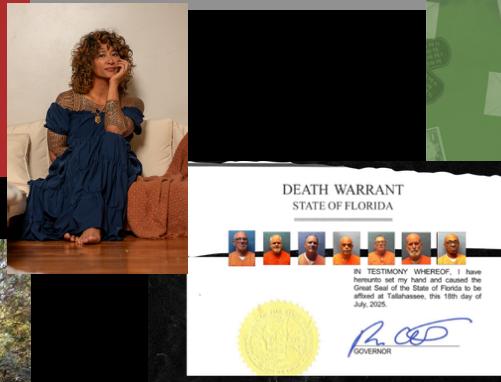


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Over the years, our reporting has changed federal and military laws, and we have partnered with local and national newsrooms across our country. This quarter, our team was recognized with two more journalism awards and published a months-long investigation with NPR, which uncovered how dozens of for-profit companies that charge disabled veterans thousands of dollars for help filing for disability claims are ignoring warning letters from VA that their business practices may be breaking the law. Upon publication, Leah appeared on NPR's Weekend Edition to discuss the coverage.

This quarter, our team also partnered with The Texas Tribune to publish reporting by freelancer Rachel Fobar, who dug into the military justice system to reveal how thousands of service members and veterans are being flagged in the FBI's national database for crimes they didn't commit. The obscure process is called "titling" – a designation that follows service members who may have simply been brought up in an investigation in a military justice matter. This designation can block them, years later, in civilian life, from jobs, security clearances, and even from passing a background check to coach a youth sports team or chaperone their kids on a school field trip. Rachel's report became the most-read news story in The War Horse's history and generated dozens of tips and responses from readers sharing their own stories.

As our team wraps up another impactful year and prepares for our second decade of impact, I want to thank supporters like you for your unwavering support of our work. We could not do this without you.



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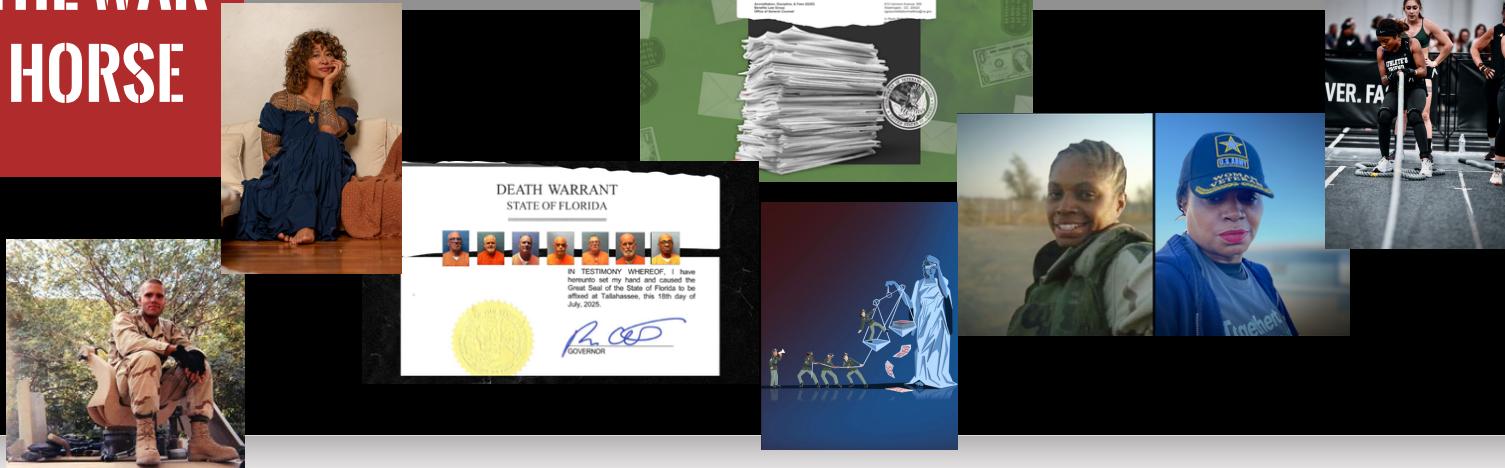


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Funder Spotlight

Thank you to the Acton Family Foundation and John Edelman, who provided the critical funding needed for the 2025 War Horse Writing Seminar. Their long-standing support and belief in the importance of providing a safe and supportive space for men and women connected to military service, so that they may experience the transformative and healing power of sharing their stories, are deeply appreciated. The long-lasting impact the seminars have on the Fellows is profound, and it wouldn't be possible without our generous supporters.

The Writing Seminars are the heart of The War Horse mission, and you can find the published reflections written by our most recent fellows and from seminars from the past [here](#) on our new website.

If you are interested in supporting this program in the future, contact becca.keaty@thewarhorse.org

From Our Readers

"I started my photography journey in the Army as a way to share my voice with loved ones. Verbal and written stories were a weakness, so I used photos to explain some of what was going on in my life... After watching 'Shadows of Fallujah', I could not wait to send you an email. I am deeply inspired by the work you and your team have accomplished. I have been staring at this email for the last 20 minutes, trying to figure out how to end it. I'll be straightforward: your organization has inspired me to reach deeper into my community and find stories that align with your mission. I hope one day I have the pleasure of attending a seminar or symposium of The War Horse, and maybe someday providing visuals to support the organization." - Kyle Ingermann, Ball State Daily News



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Top News Story

They've Never Been Arrested. Why Does the FBI List Thousands of Service Members as Potential Criminals?

A Texas mom and National Guard member is suing the Army to clear her name—and upend the military justice system

By Rachel Fobar



Top Reflection

'I Won't Shed Any Tears the Day I Leave.' Letters Home From Marine Officer Candidates School

At age 21, I thought I was in the best physical shape of my young life. Little did I know!

By David Nelson

Contributing Writer Spotlight



2025 Writing Fellow: Heather King

Air Force Veteran Didn't Need Permission to Drink—or Find New Path to Sobriety

The seminar changed my perspective about my approach to writing. It's helped me see ways to nurture my creativity in small ways, like simply writing a thought down. It's a simple process, but it has been really impactful.