

OUR MISSION:

We equip veterans for the mind's frontline, one story at a time. We help individuals recognize that the tales we tell (and those we don't) are strongholds of safety, strategies for progress, and survival tactics shaped by experience, both for ourselves and others. That's the beauty of narrative: it brings order to chaos, coherence to confusion, and meaning to memory, for in every story, we find another necessary chapter in the field guide for life.



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FREE FOR ALL: VETERANS



ACTIVE-DUTY
SERVICE MEMBERS



FIRST RESPONDERS



& THEIR FAMILIES

WANT TO KNOW MORE?



Scan the QR code
for the VRP website.



Email Joshua Shinn,
VRP Pilot & Lead, at
jshinn@missouri.edu



Follow The Veteran
R.E.A.D.S. Program on
Facebook for updates,
events, and resources.

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THE VETERAN R.E.A.D.S. PROGRAM



STORIES ARE
STRONGHOLDS AND
STRATEGIES FOR THE
MIND'S FRONTLINES

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3 KC METRO LOCATIONS:



MEETS MONDAYS 5-6:30PM
EVERY OTHER WEEK



501 N. Dodgion Street
Independence, MO 64050

*The
StoryCenter*
at MCPL



MEETS THE 3RD TUESDAY
5-6:30PM OF EVERY MONTH



8900 Flintlock Road
Kansas City, MO 64157

VETERANS
COMMUNITY PROJECT



MEETS THE 3RD WEDNESDAY
5-6:30PM OF EVERY MONTH



8825 Troost Avenue,
Kansas City, MO 64131

All participants receive a free copy of
***Standing Down: From Warrior to
Civilian*** provided by:



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Transitioning from service to civilian life

can be lonely,
difficult, &
overwhelming.



Anger, trauma, & mental health challenges

often
follow veterans and
first responders
home—long after
their service ends.



At the VRP,
storytelling
becomes the
**stronghold & the
strategy** for life
beyond the
battlefield.



Storytelling is one of
humanity's oldest
tools for **healing,**
connection, and
meaning-making.



THE POWER OF STORY:

- ★ Our personal narratives shape how we see ourselves, relate to others, and find our way forward.
- ★ For veterans, storytelling is transformative. Sharing their stories helps process war memories (Esaki et al., 2020), heal identity crises between military and civilian life (Demers, 2011), and strengthen resilience.
- ★ It offers a less threatening path to engage with difficult topics and construct meaning from them (Hamm & Leonhardt, 2023).
- ★ Just as bootcamp immerses service members into military life, storytelling offers the immersive experience needed for reintegration (MITRE Corporation, 2019).
- ★ By understanding the minds of others, veterans better understand their own—gaining critical insight, strength, and direction (Elder & Paul, 2004).
- ★ Through story, veterans reclaim their voice—and with it, the power to heal, grow, and lead.

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