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Greet the Holiday Season with Laughs and Poetry at the NVMM! *Poetry Reading and Open Mic Night December 9; GIs of Comedy Night on December 10*

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Join the [National Veterans Memorial and Museum \(NVMM\)](https://www.nationalvmm.org/) for two engaging evenings of entertainment on Friday, December 9 and Saturday, December 10. Ease your way into the holidays with the poetry of U.S. Army Veteran, Amy Sexauer who will read from her new book, “Poppies,” on Friday evening followed by an open mic for aspiring poets to connect and share their works as well.

Return on Saturday for a daytime journaling workshop with the Veteran-owned and operated publishers of the Dead Reckoning Collective. Saturday evening, the NVMM presents a night of laughs with the GIs of Comedy led by Thom Tran, a U.S. Army combat Veteran and professional stand-up comedian who regularly performs at the Laugh Factory and other venues in California.

[Poetry and Open Mic Night:](#) December 9 | 6:30 p.m. | FREE

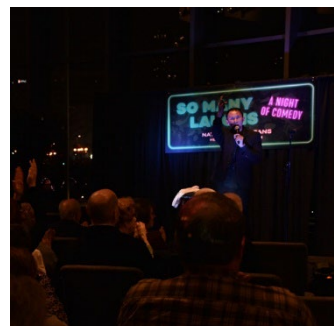
Join the NVMM for a night of creative expression with Amy Sexauer, U.S. Army Veteran and author, for a live poetry reading from her debut book, “Poppies,” from publisher, Dead Reckoning Collective. Sexauer’s book details one woman’s journey through war, loss and change. There will be time for discussion followed by an open mic for guests to share their own poetry and works. Light refreshments will be provided.

[Journaling Workshop:](#) December 10 | 11 a.m. | FREE

Learn from the founders and editors of Dead Reckoning Collective, a Veteran-owned and operated publisher, during a hands-on workshop. They will share a variety of journaling options, how to get started and methods to incorporate other creative endeavors into the practice of journaling. While there are no rules for journaling, the focus will be on how to regularly examine experiences and new, expressive ways to process stories.

[GIs of Comedy Night at the Museum:](#) December 10 | 7 p.m. | \$25

NVMM Comedy Night headliner, Thom Tran, U.S. Army Veteran, founded The GIs of Comedy troupe of troops that has toured across the country and internationally, bringing the healing power of laughter to both military and civilian audiences. Tran has turned a lifetime of war into a successful career as a stand-up comic after a combat injury ended his military career. He also is one of 25 Veterans featured in the NVMM permanent exhibition alcoves.



Joining Tran for Comedy Night at the museum are Veterans [Walter Campbell](#) and [Jose Barrientos](#). During his 20 years of active duty with the U.S. Air Force, Campbell was selected to join the premiere entertainment ensemble, Tops in Blue and performed with the All-Stars Tour for deployed service members serving abroad. He has performed in more than 25 countries including a pit stop at NASCAR's Daytona 500 in 2002. Campbell has been performing with the GIs of Comedy since 2016.

Jose Barrientos began his comedy career in Baghdad, Iraq, while serving in the U.S. Army. After realizing he was a better comedian than a soldier, he relocated to San Diego and then to Los Angeles where he now performs. Barrientos has been featured for his pranks on ABC's "20/20."

Tickets include refreshments and are [available here](#).

About the Dead Reckoning Collective (DRC)

[DRC](#) is a Veteran-owned and operated publishing company that encourages literacy as a component of a positive lifestyle. Although DRC only publishes the written work of military Veterans, the intention of closing the divide between civilians and Veterans is held in the highest regard. By sharing these stories, it is their hope that they can help to clarify how Veterans should be viewed by the public and how Veterans should view themselves.

About The GIs of Comedy

[The GIs of Comedy](#) is a comedic troupe of troops, who have taken their love of their country and brought it to the comedy stage. Quite simply, as the motto says, they're standup comics. All Veterans. Still serving their country. One joke at a time. Their goal is to help heal their fellow soldiers with comedy and bring laughter to all those who have supported the people that wear the uniform of the United States armed forces.

About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and sharing experiences of Veterans from all military branches throughout history. [The National Veterans Memorial and Museum](#) pays tribute to the sacrifices of men and women in service and their families. History is presented through a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multi-media presentations, and interactive exhibits. Together, these elements link our national story of service to the larger context of the world.

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