

PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUBJECT: Honoring Greatest Generation to Celebrate 75th Anniversary of End of WWII

Group Name:

Contact Person:

Cell Phone Number:

Performance Date and Time;

To celebrate the 75th anniversary of the end of WWII, you're invited to watch us perform stories of true American heroes on Facebook Live. Groups like ours across the nation are being asked to perform Readers Theaters about three WWII subjects from Iowa. These three compelling stories that were told by young authors through a writing program for children 18 and younger called A BOOK by ME. The Readers Theater scripts were adapted from three of the books that were written and illustrated by kids for kids. These scripts are offered free of charge at understandingworks.org

- The One in Charge: Al Taylor was a medic at Pearl Harbor who worked triage. He was a homeless youth during the Great Depression before joining the Army.
- Barbed Wire Wings: John Gualtier was a medic on the front lines in Europe who experienced having a Jewish prisoner die in his arms. John tried to commit suicide after the war and talks openly about it still today to veteran groups and students.
- My Guardian Angel: Eva Apathy was a Hungarian war refugee who was an unwanted orphan during the war.

To honor this very special anniversary of the end of WWII, people worldwide are performing these skits online to keep safe during the pandemic. It's recommended the skits be shared on Facebook Live so they can be seen by community members. Local nursing homes and assisted living facilities are being asked to share these skits with their residents and have a group discussion about what their own family's experiences were during this era.

Community members are being asked to check out the classroom book sets at understandingworks.org and consider donating books to your local school or public libraries. The books teach history through the eyes of a child author who interviewed a survivor. There are lessons on tolerance, empathy and more. Many school districts have very limited budgets making it impossible to purchase book sets. Teachers in this situation may sign up at this same website to receive free sets as donors come forward to help share these important stories.

As a result of reading the stories, some students may become interested in finding a local story to tell themselves. Writer's Guidelines and instructional videos are available on the website.