

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## MCPL ‘Veterans Salute’ Returns Nov. 15

### Annual Program Supports & Celebrates Veteran Community, Explores Power of Art

Kansas City, MO – This **Saturday, November 15, at 2:00 p.m.**, Mid-Continent Public Library will host its annual **Veterans Salute** program at the Midwest Genealogy Center (3440 S. Lee’s Summit Road, Independence, Mo.). This year’s program, Artful Resilience, will feature a panel discussion on the transformative power of art in the veteran healing journey. The panel will be comprised of the founder and instructors from Monkey Brain Art, a local nonprofit that provides free art workshops and courses on meditation and mindfulness for local veterans, first responders, nurses, and caregivers.

Before the program begins, the American Legion Band of Greater Kansas City will give a live musical performance, and attendees can enjoy an exhibit of veteran artwork on display along the Center’s gallery wall. Following the conclusion of panel discussion, the Library will host a Resource Fair with a wide array of organizations and veteran resources for military members and their loved ones to speak with.

“We’re proud to once again offer our Veterans Salute program, which we hope both demonstrates our appreciation and provides valuable support for our local service members,” said Colleen Norman, MCPL Programming and Events Manager.

The Veterans Salute panelists include Monkey Brain founder Gary Walker, who started the organization with his wife, Trish, to combat the trauma of PTSD. Gary is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and practices art to help with anxiety and depression. Joining Gary will be three members of his art instruction team at Monkey Brain, and Air Force veterans as well—Gwen Thomas, Kyle VanLanduyt, and Matt Moyers.

**More information and registration for the 2025 Veterans Salute can be found on the Library’s website at [mymcpl.org/VeteransSalute](https://mymcpl.org/VeteransSalute).**

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**About Mid-Continent Public Library**

Founded in 1965, [Mid-Continent Public Library](#) is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 34 branches and two Library-To-Go locations and serving approximately 850,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. MCPL is an award-winning library system that strives to enrich citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. Connect with the Library on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).