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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience
*Newburyport Literary Festival welcomes experience piece from the
National Endowment for the Arts*

Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience is a profoundly detailed piece on the reflections and experiences of active duty troops in the U.S. Armed Forces, as well as veterans, of both current and past conflicts.

Organized by National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), *Operation Homecoming*, which began in 2004, was developed to pay tribute to military personal and their families. *Operation Homecoming*, with support from The Boeing Company, has provided domestic and overseas troops with writing workshops from Camp Pendleton in California to USS *Carl Vinson* in the Persian Gulf and Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan.

The 4th Annual Newburyport Literary Festival (NLF) is pleased to welcome Richard Bausch, Marilyn Nelson and Jon Peede, teachers of the workshops, on April 25, 2009 at 1:00 pm at the Firehouse Center for the Performing Arts in Newburyport, Massachusetts to partake in an Open House to share the accounts of contributors' wartime experiences as outlined in the piece.

About the workshop teachers:

- Richard Bausch is the author of ten novels and seven collections of short stories, including *Take Me Back* (1981); *The Last Good Time* (1984); *Violence* (1992); *The Selected Stories of Richard Bausch* (1996); *Hello to the Cannibals* (2003); and *Peace* (2008). He holds a B.A. from George Mason University and an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Iowa. His awards include a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, a Guggenheim fellowship, the Lila Wallace-Reader's Digest Writer's Award, the Award in Literature from the Academy of Arts and Letters, and the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story. Bausch holds the Lillian and Morrie A. Moss Chair of Excellence at The University of Memphis.
- Marilyn Nelson was raised on military bases, and as a poet developed a unique perspective on the U.S. Armed Services as the daughter of one of the last of the Tuskegee Airmen.

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Her books include *For the Body* (1978); *Mama's Promises* (1985); *The Homeplace* (1990), which won the Annisfield-Wolf Award and was a finalist for the National Book Award; *The Fields of Praise: New and Selected Poems* (1997), which was a finalist for the Lenore Marshall Poetry Prize, the National Book Award, and the PEN Winship Award; and *Carver: A Life in Poems* (2001), which was also a finalist for the National Book Award. She has written two collections of poetry for children. Her other honors include two Pushcart Prizes, two fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Fulbright Teaching Fellowship, and the 1990 Connecticut Arts Award. She is a Professor Emeritus at the University of Connecticut, Storrs, and has taught most recently at the University of Delaware.

- Jon Parrish Peede is Director of Literature Grants at the National Endowment for the Arts. He is also director of the NEA's acclaimed Operation Homecoming: Writing the Wartime Experience program. With this program, he traveled to 29 military bases in six countries to gather wartime writing from U.S. troops and their families. In 2007, he co-edited of an essay collection on Flannery O'Connor, and selected contemporary U.S. stories for an anthology published by the Mexican government. He is a former book editor and college administrator.

For more information regarding Operation Homecoming, please visit <http://www.nea.gov/national/homecoming/index.html>

The Newburyport Literary Festival (NLF), organized by the Newburyport Literary Association, annually celebrates the joy of reading and writing as well as the love of books. The NLF in 2009 features more than 40 writers of distinguished fiction and non-fiction – including short story writers, children's authors, biographers, nature writers, critics, screenwriters, poets, novelists, and journalists – who will read and discuss their work in venues throughout Newburyport's historic downtown

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For more information on the NLF, including authors and their work, please visit www.newburyportliteraryfestival.org