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“War Comes Home: The Legacy” Exhibit Featuring Correspondence Revealing How War Changes Lives, Families & Communities on View at Central Library, 630 W. Fifth St., Downtown L.A. July 9 – August 16, 2015

LOS ANGELES, CA – Highlighting private correspondence from almost every major conflict in U.S. history, the new exhibition “War Comes Home: The Legacy” opens on July 9 at the downtown Central Library, 630 W. Fifth St. The traveling exhibit, rich with historic and contemporary letters, offers an intimate perspective into the thoughts and emotions of veterans and their families when their loved ones come home.

The exhibit, which runs through August 16, will be located in Central Library, Lower Level 2. An opening reception will be held on Thursday, July 9, from 6 to 7 p.m. at Central Library, Meeting Room A, featuring exhibit curator Andrew Carroll, Director of the Center of American War Letters (CAWL), Chapman University in Orange. Attendees are encouraged to bring their wartime letters with troops to be added to the collection.

“War Comes Home: The Legacy” is part of Cal Humanities’ current *War Comes Home* initiative, a thematic program designed to promote greater understanding of veterans and explore how war shapes a community. The exhibit is based on the work of CAWL and is presented by Exhibit Envoy. Carroll, an award-winning and *New York Times* bestselling author, co-curated the exhibit with John Benitz, Associate Professor in the Department of Theatre at Chapman University,

“We are proud to present this exhibit that captures through written letters the heart and soul of what veterans and their loved ones are experiencing during the separations caused by war,” said City Librarian John F. Szabo. “Along with the many services we provide for veterans who visit the library, this exhibit provides outreach through a unique form of literature – written letters – that veterans can connect to through their experiences and provides others with a deeper understanding of the toll of war.”

The exhibit explores the joys and hardships that returning troops and their

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Peter Persic, Public Relations & Marketing Director

families face during homecoming, as expressed through private letters and emails. Spanning conflicts from the Civil War through the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq and displayed on 13 interpretive panels, *War Comes Home: The Legacy* explores the shared themes of wartime separation, the adjustment to life back at home, and the costs of war. As Staff Sergeant Parker Gyokeres writes, “Those of us coming back...are not looking for sympathy. We might be reluctant at first to talk about what we’ve been through...[but] your support has made this journey an incredible one...Thanks, above all, for listening.”

The exhibit is free and open to the public during library hours. For more information call 213.228.7384 or visit www.lapl.org/veterans.

Exhibit Support

War Comes Home: The Legacy is a partnership between Cal Humanities, the California State Library and Exhibit Envoy. It is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the BayTree Fund, The Whitman Fund, and the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian. Learn more about Exhibit Envoy at www.exhibitenvoy.org and about Cal Humanities at www.calhum.org.

About the Los Angeles Public Library

A 2015 recipient of the nation’s highest honor for library service—the National Medal from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the Los Angeles Public Library serves the largest and most diverse urban population of any library in the nation. Its Central Library, 72 branch libraries, collection of more than 6 million books, state-of-the-art technology accessible at www.lapl.org, and more than 18,000 public programs a year provide everyone with free and easy access to information and the opportunity for life-long learning.

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