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### **News Release**

#### **Kern County Library Creates Community Conversation about Veterans**

Kern County Library and local veteran service organizations invite the community to create a conversation about issues facing veterans and their families, through the Cal Humanities grant funded state-wide community reading and discussion initiative, **CA Reads: Our Veterans, Our Communities**. Kern County Library, the coordinating agency for **Kern County: Our Veterans, Our Communities**, together with local veterans' agencies and support groups, have created a wide array of community programs, discussions, and events surrounding issues veterans face returning home from military service, past and present. These programs provide a springboard to think about and discuss ideas using thought-provoking books about issues that are important to our community.

Kern County community members from all walks of life are invited to participate in these activities, including book discussions, family storytimes, the 'Thank a Veteran Art Card Project,' and many more. Book discussions, held throughout the county, will center on the themes of the book *What It Is Like To Go To War*, by decorated Vietnam veteran and Rhodes Scholar, Karl Marlantes. On Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, at 4:30pm at the Beale Memorial Library on 701 Truxtun Ave., Bakersfield, Karl Marlantes himself will open up discussion and community conversation about veterans issues, his combat experience, and critically examine how we might better support our soldiers. This November, the **Kern County: Our Veterans, Our Communities** initiative will focus on the veteran experience, aiming to increase public understanding and empathy for those who have served, as well as to spark a public conversation on how best we can support the process of reincorporating our veterans into the fabric of civilian life.

For full programming information, visit [kerncountylibrary.org](http://kerncountylibrary.org)