



Veterans Writing Award

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Syracuse University Press | D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families



Maurice Decaul is an accomplished writer, poet, essayist, and playwright whose work has been profoundly shaped by his experiences as a U.S. Marine. He holds a BA in creative writing from Columbia University and dual MFAs—one in poetry from New York University and another in theatre from Brown University. Decaul's productions have been showcased at prominent venues such as Syracuse Stage, The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, and the Gammage Theatre at Arizona State University among others.

Call for Submissions

Syracuse University Press, in cooperation with the D'Aniello Institute for Veterans and Military Families (IVMF), established the Veterans Writing Award in 2019, and now the award is in its third cycle.

We invite unpublished, full-length manuscripts for consideration. This biennial contest alternates between fiction and nonfiction each award cycle, with the 2025 award open to novels and short story collections. The award is open to U.S. veterans and active duty personnel in any branch of the U.S. military and their immediate family members. This includes spouses, domestic partners, siblings, parents, and children. Although work submitted for the contest need not be about direct military experience, we seek original voices and fresh perspectives that will expand and challenge readers' understanding of the lives of veterans and their families. Posthumous submissions are eligible.

Finalists will be read by writer and veteran of the United States Marine Corps Maurice Decaul, and the winning entry will be announced in November of 2025.

The award includes a \$1,000 cash prize and a publication contract with Syracuse University Press. Manuscripts of high merit not selected for the final award may receive honorable mention.

Complete rules and submission guidelines can be found at <https://press.syr.edu/veterans-writing-award/>.