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### **Decorated vet speaking at M State's 'Always Lost' war exhibit**

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Iraqi war veteran Patrick Nelson, a native of Dawson and a former Army paratrooper, will speak at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30, about his own military experiences and the "Always Lost: A Meditation on War" exhibit now on display on the Fergus Falls campus of Minnesota State Community and Technical College.

Nelson, who served one tour in Iraq and two tours in Afghanistan for a total of 39 months, was awarded the Purple Heart after he was wounded in Afghanistan and the Bronze Star for his actions during a 15-month deployment.

"Always Lost," an exhibit that brings home the costs of war and honors those who died in Iraq and Afghanistan, is on display in the library of M State's Fergus Falls campus through Thursday, Oct. 2. It includes Pulitzer Prize-winning combat photos by photographers from The Dallas Morning News and the "Wall of the Dead," which depicts the faces and names of the more than 6,800 American casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan.

There is no charge for admission to the exhibit or to Nelson's presentation, which will be in Legacy Hall on the Fergus Falls campus.

After leaving the Army in December 2008, Nelson earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Minnesota State University – Mankato. He has continued to serve fellow veterans and the community by starting a non-profit website called Real Combat Life where veterans can share their stories. He also has spoken on behalf of Tee It Up for the Troops and served as a Big Brother in the YMCA Big Brother and Big Sister Program.

Nelson was named the first NFL-Pat Tillman Military Scholar, a Horatio Alger Military Scholar, Huffington Post "Greatest Person of the Day," the 2012 MSUM Sport Management Student of the Year and the 2013 People Magazine and Major League Baseball Tribute for Heroes winner representing the Minnesota Twins.

"Always Lost" is a nationally touring humanities exhibit on loan to the Minnesota Humanities Center from Western Nevada College. The Center is coordinating the statewide tour of the exhibit, which includes 90 pieces of literary work and interviews and photographs of veterans.

M State, the first stop on the exhibit's Minnesota tour, is hosting a reception for the exhibit from 4 to 6 p.m. Oct. 2 at the campus library.

The program is funded in part by the Nevada Arts Council and the National Endowment for the Arts. The Minnesota statewide tour has been made possible by the Minnesota Humanities Center and funded in part with money from the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund.