

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

REPRESENTING: *Coming Home: For Those Who Serve and Those Who Wait*

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**New Military Devotional “Coming Home”
Offers Support to Troops and Families**

Oklahoma Blue Star Mothers to Benefit

TULSA, OK-- A devotional journal for service men and women, their military families and loved ones has been written by two Tulsa ministers. *Coming Home: A Devotional Journal for Those Who Serve and Those Who Wait* was written by Rev. Emile H. Hawkins Sr. and the Rev. Danny Lynchard

The book is designed to give hope, inspiration and comfort to these military families and others who are sacrificing their lives and time in the pursuit of freedom for everyone.

It includes 110 devotions, 19 actual letters from previous wars, seven military cadences and pages for readers to record personal thoughts and experiences.

The war letters are accompanied by 25 original World War II photos contributed by Tulsa photographer Jerry Cornelius. Most were taken by his father, Marine Master Sgt. Meyers Cornelius, a combat photographer in WWII. The previously unpublished photos include one of the Marine landing at Iwo Jima.

War letters were written by soldiers from major wars, beginning with the Civil War through the Viet Nam War and the current operation in Iraq.

Hawkins is a former U.S. Marine Corps sergeant. He serves as a captain/chaplain for the Oklahoma Air National Guard and is chaplain of the Tulsa Police and Fire departments. He is senior pastor of Liberty World Outreach Church in Tulsa and founder of the non-profit organization, High Hopes Youth and Family Services.

Lynchard has been a Baptist minister for over 30 years and is director of the Tulsa Policy/Fire Chaplaincy Corps. He is a licensed pilot and a freelance writer for several Christian publications.

Lynchard has seen his share of suffering in his work with victims associated with crime and enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to the project. “My personal contact with parents of those who are waiting and praying for their children to return home safely fanned a flame that I believe scorches the soul of every American,” he says. “The project replaced a feeling of helplessness with one of being helpful, not only to our troops but to every American family who looks for a way to understand the plight of a soldier.”

In considering his motivation for contributing to the effort, Hawkins reflected, “I’ve trained with these soldiers for years. I remember thinking of the wives whose husbands were deployed to Iraq in March 2003, how their lives were changed suddenly. This was a way to offer support to the soldiers, their families, and our country.”

Coming Home retails for \$6.99 and may be found through Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1-800-251-4000 (ISBN 1-4041-8561-5) and at local bookstores, including Mardel’s and Steve’s Sundry, or online at Amazon.com.

NOTE: The Blue Star Mothers of Oklahoma are asking Tulsans to donate copies of the devotional for inclusion in overseas care packages to soldiers from Oklahoma and other states. Boxes will be located at Steve’s Sundry and Tulsa’s two Mardel bookstore locations where customers can purchase copies of the book for donation.

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