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Introduction

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FORCES offered a call for military submissions with this issue in deep respect for the service and sacrifice of all soldiers, past and present, and their families. We weren't certain what the response would be. While we did receive a fair amount of military submissions, the number was fewer than we had hoped to fill an entire issue. My suspicion is that war, service, returning home, and readjusting to civilian life, it appears, is difficult to talk about, difficult to write about. I am reminded, sometimes in life that words cannot take a person to the same place or explain the inexplicable; sometimes, "You just have to have been there." It's like trying to explain love between two human beings: holding hands can say more than any dissertation, a locking of eyes can make the mouth mute when there is nothing more to say. Therefore, we let the journal be woven with traditional submissions and stitched together with various military moments to create in form and in content a piece that is indicative of the country the veterans left to defend and a reminder to all of us what it is exactly they return to - a country of freedom, of responsibility, of honor, of grace, of one voice with many faces.

Assisting in selection and editing this year are two talented writers, Taurean Hill, the current Collin College Student Editor of *FORCES* and Amy Holt, former Collin College creative writing student and current SMU creative writing major.

R. Scott Yarbrough
 Editor of *FORCES Literary Journal*

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