

Components of the Exhibition

In its entirety, the *Always Lost: A Meditation on War* art/humanities exhibition consists of several components:

- The “Wall of the Dead” depicts the faces and names of U.S. military war casualties in Iraq and Afghanistan since September 11, 2001, currently numbering over 6,000 dead. As casualties continue to mount, the Wall continues to grow.
- The Pulitzer Prize-winning collection of Iraq War combat photographs (*Breaking News Photography*, 2004) by photojournalists David Leeson and Cheryl Diaz Meyer, who were embedded with Marine units in Iraq in 2003. The twenty photographs are on loan to Western Nevada College courtesy of *The Dallas Morning News*.
- Ninety pieces of literary work, which includes prose and poetry by Northern Nevada writers along with historical and contemporary sayings on the subject of war (the “meditations”).
- Interviews and photographic portraits of three Western Nevada College student veterans, representing the thousands of military personnel returning from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts.
- The story of Specialist Noah Pierce, who took his own life after completing two combat tours in Iraq, representing the thousands of veteran suicides. Included in the exhibition is Pierce’s poetry about his combat experiences, found after his death. Approximately eighteen veterans commit suicide every day (*Army Times*, April 22, 2010).