



Artist statements
By Stephen J. Thorne

I did three assignments covering Canadians in Afghanistan for The Canadian Press between 2002 and 2004. I felt then, and I feel to this day, that it was the most important journalism I have ever done.

Yet, years later, I believed my Afghanistan work was unfinished. I nurtured the idea of a photo essay on the troops who came home wounded. Press coverage from Afghanistan concerning Canada's war dead was extensive, and rightfully so. The wounded were rarely mentioned, however, and when they were, they were only described as "injured." But did readers understand what "injured" meant? Lives were changed forever in a split-second — by an IED or a bullet — or over time, by the ravages of psychological trauma. The stories of the wounded needed to be told.

This project was my first proposal after coming to *Legion Magazine* in November 2016. I travelled Canada to photograph and interview these dedicated, courageous soldiers. They didn't want the attention. They co-operated and collaborated out of an ongoing sense of duty and public service. Their resilience, rehabilitation and commitment moved and inspired me profoundly. I hope that, through this exhibition, they will do the same for other Canadians.

About the Photographer

Born in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Stephen J. Thorne is a writer, photographer, editor and broadcaster. He has reported extensively from conflicts in Kosovo and Afghanistan. His stories and photographs have been published worldwide. His honours over four decades of journalism include three National Newspaper Awards, four Radio-Television News Directors' Association broadcast awards, two Canadian Press Story of the Year awards, and the first Ross Munro Media Award for excellence in defence reporting. In 2012, he received the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for "contributions to Canada." His front-line work was previously featured in the Canadian War Museum exhibition **Afghanistan: A Glimpse of War** (2007–2008).

An exhibition developed by the Canadian War Museum in partnership with *Legion Magazine*.
Photography and stories by Stephen J. Thorne

February 15 to June 2, 2019
warmuseum.ca/thewounded