

**PREMIERE OF SHORT FILMS BY AREA VETS**  
**Jan. 25 at 6PM — University of Wyoming — FREE & All Welcome**  
**Governor Gordon to Attend**

2 January 2024 — Laramie, WY: **The Patton Veterans Project (PVP)** is hosting a community screening to premiere several short films created by area veterans at its film workshop last month at The University of Wyoming. At the workshops, servicemen and women work together to make short films about meaningful service experiences. The free screening, which is open to all, will be followed by meet-and-greet reception for the veterans and guests. Governor Mark Gordon is scheduled to attend.

Led by Benjamin Patton (grandson of WWII's General George S. Patton, Jr.) and a team of professional film instructors, PVP's free 3-day **I Was There Film Workshops** help veterans learn a new skill while working with fellow vets and, through these screenings, help their families and community members connect and understand one another. Says Patton: *"The video camera is the most powerful and widely used communications tool ever invented. Virtually everyone, soldiers and civilians alike, understands the medium. What better way to connect people — film is a language we all speak."*

Founded in 2012, PVP has helped some 1400 vets make more than 300 films at major military bases and colleges across the US and abroad. The workshops, which are free and open to all vets regardless of age or service branch, have proven highly therapeutic, particularly for those coping with service-related posttraumatic stress, isolation, and transition to civilian life. Participating vets work in small groups in a safe setting, creating visual narratives about subjects and experiences that matter to them. As one Iraq war soldier put it: *"It's a camera and a computer, and since I've been home, it's the most therapeutic thing I've done."*

Longtime Cheyenne VA psychologist Dr. Chuck Drebing, who co-authored a clinical study of the film program, noted: *"In my 30+ years of working with veterans, I've never seen anything as transformative and powerful as this. The vast majority leave the experience with a more positive attitude toward their future, ready to move forward with their lives."* In the VA-sponsored study, 80% of participating vets not previously enrolled in any mental healthcare, sought support within two months of completing the workshop.



**The screening will take place at the University of Wyoming Union (at 1000 E. University Drive, Laramie) on Thursday, January 25th at 6PM. The event is open to all veterans and civilians.**

PVP will be holding film workshops throughout the year at colleges across Wyoming and Colorado. Interested vets may inquire or register at [pattonveteransproject.org](http://pattonveteransproject.org), by calling (970) 657-5500 or via email at [workshops@pattonveteransproject.org](mailto:workshops@pattonveteransproject.org). Space is limited.

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