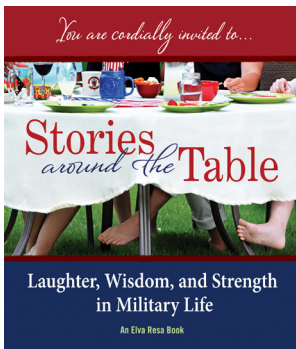


Stories *around the* Table

E X P E R I E N C E



Once upon a time...

Stories Around the Table began with a young military spouse reaching out for help. More than forty military family writers responded by sharing their encouraging stories and experience from both everyday and extraordinary moments. The result is a book about life—friendship, romance, depression, parenting, careers, finances, infertility,

education, children with special needs, faith, grief—amidst the added challenges of military life—frequent moves, deployment, reunion, overseas assignments, combat injury, post-traumatic stress. Personal stories that touch every reader.

As community leaders, we are called to support our military families in unique and effective ways. We invite you to bring the *Stories* experience to your community.

You are cordially invited to a gathering of friends.

Please join us!

Stories connect us.

Creating Community *through stories*

Stories Around the Table is more than a book. It's an experience. This collection of stories reads like a gathering of friends, serving as a catalyst for conversation among military families and a bridge of understanding between military and civilian communities.

Why an event? A *Stories* experience brings people together face-to-face to encourage one another. Individuals feel less alone, and communities gain new perspective to support military families.

Why use the book? Some important topics are difficult to talk about. *Stories* offers a starting point—someone else's experience. After the event, readers can come back to the stories they relate to most and continue the conversation.

There are many ways to facilitate a meaningful *Stories* experience. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

Plan the experience

- Select a theme or goal for your event based on your community's needs.
- Ask sponsors to provide a meal and a *Stories Around the Table* book for each participant.
- Plan a story starter that resonates with your group.
- Allow time for conversation and next steps.

At the event

- Talk about the benefit of sharing stories.
- Ask your speaker to share his/her story. Or (if no speaker) read excerpts from the book.
- Lead participants in an activity or table discussion to share their stories, based on your event theme.
- Encourage participants to continue sharing *Stories Around the Table* with other groups/communities.

Sample event themes

You might already have an event that *Stories* fits into, such as a leadership retreat, family readiness training, military spouse luncheon, book club, neighborhood gathering, or business fair. Here are few examples of community event themes and potential people to invite around the table.

Transitioning Veterans (e.g., blending corporate and military culture). Business leaders, hiring managers, military service members and spouses.

Military Family Health (e.g., stress, change, PTSD, suicide). Healthcare professionals, counselors, religious leaders, social workers, and military families.

Military-Connected Students (preschool, grade school, teens). Teachers, school administrators, coaches, day care providers, military-connected kids and parents.

Sample story starters

Open the table conversation with a story starter, or adapt questions to your theme or audience. Focus on personal moments in time rather than whole life stories. Give everyone a chance to share.

Direction moment. Tell us about a time that changed the direction of your life, a significant milestone you often use to divide memories, or something/someone that changed your perspective.

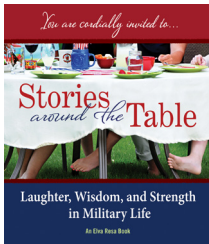
Difficult choice. What is a difficult choice you had to make, a choice someone else made that impacted you, or a challenge you've faced?

Success story. Describe a time you felt successful, used a special talent, or achieved a goal. How might your experience help others?

Encourage participants to continue the conversation post-event and form deeper connections and support through personal stories.

For additional ideas or help planning your *Stories* experience, please contact pr@elvaresa.com or call 651-357-8770.

Books and Speakers



Stories Around the Table: Laughter, Wisdom, and Strength in Military Life

978-1-934617-29-8 Paperback

Single copies: \$14.95 each

Events: \$600/case of 50 books

Order 5 or more cases (>250 books), \$500/case.

To order, call **651-357-8770** or send your event information to **orders@elvaresa.com**. Find additional quality resources for military families at

MilitaryFamilyBooks.com.

 **MilitaryFamilyBooks.com**



Stories events are memorable and effective with great storytellers. *Stories Around the Table* coauthors are located around the world. If you'd like an author to speak at your event, please email **pr@elvaresa.com**.

Coauthors do not receive a royalty from the book. Instead, a portion of the proceeds benefits Operation Homefront, supporting military families who need more than what a book or table of friends can provide.

StoriesAroundTheTable.com

 /StoriesAroundTheTable  @StoriesTable

Elva Resa Publishing

Making a positive difference in people's lives

8362 Tamarack Vlg., Ste. 119-106, St. Paul, MN 55125

T 651-357-8770 F 501.641.0777 orders@elvaresa.com

 /ElvaResaPublishing  @ElvaResa  /ElvaResa