

This Americana is a series of speakers and conversations centered around history, culture, and the ideas that shape us as a community. The War Memorial presents both nationally known and local speakers, exploring the important issues facing our families and region. Learn more at [www.warmemorial.org/lectures](http://www.warmemorial.org/lectures).



# This Americana

## MAJOR MARY JENNINGS HEGAR

AUTHOR OF *SHOOT LIKE A GIRL*  
**BE THE CHANGE**

On July 29, 2009, Air National Guard major Mary Jennings "MJ" Hegar was shot down while on a Medevac mission on her third tour in Afghanistan. Despite being wounded, she fought the enemy and saved the lives of her crew and their patients. But soon she would face a new battle: to give women who serve on the front lines the credit they deserve.

Commissioned into the U.S. Air Force, MJ Hegar was selected for pilot training by the Air National Guard, where she finished at the top of her class. She then served three tours in Afghanistan, flying combat search-and-rescue missions, culminating in a harrowing rescue attempt that would earn

MJ the Purple Heart as well as the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor Device.

But it was on American soil that Hegar would embark on her greatest challenge—to eliminate the military's Ground Combat Exclusion Policy, which kept female armed service members from officially serving in combat roles despite their long-standing record of doing so with honor.

In *Shoot Like a Girl*, MJ takes the reader on a dramatic journey through her military career: an inspiring, humorous, and thrilling true story of a brave, high-spirited, and unforgettable woman who has spent much of her life ready to sacrifice everything for her country, her fellow man, and her sense of justice. ■



**"A must-read about an American patriot whose courage and determination will have a lasting impact on the future of our Armed Forces and the nation."**

Senator John McCain

WHEN **THURSDAY, APRIL 12**

TIME **VIP reception 6:30pm**

**Main event 8pm**

*Featuring keynote speech*

**Book signing 8:30pm**

*Includes photo opportunity*

COST **VIP reception \$60**

*Including a hosted bar, passed appetizers, an opportunity to meet Major Mary Jennings Hegar in an intimate setting, and premium seating for the main event*

**General admission \$35**

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