



**Critical Acclaim For  
“WHERE SOLDIERS COME FROM”**

By Heather Courtney

“A quietly devastating documentary about growing up all too quickly. . . . In its compassionate, modest gaze, the real cost of distant political decisions is softly illuminated . . .”

— **Jeannette Catsoulis, *The New York Times***

“Hauntingly beautiful and deeply felt. . . . some of the best Afghan war-related storytelling I've seen. . . . I watched *Where Soldiers Come From* twice — it was that good.”

— **Hank Stuever, *The Washington Post***

“Revelatory. . . . what distinguishes *Soldiers* is its startling, intimate access to its characters. . . . introducing us to these strangers fighting our wars, to their families who bear the burden and to those humble communities that endure upheaval with each and every wave of returning veterans.”

— **Steven James Snyder, *TIME***

“To see these children of waitresses, salon workers and fathers on disability burdened because they stepped up is humanizing and heartbreaking.”

— **Joe Neumaier, *New York Daily News***

“More than most documentaries on the subject, *Where Soldiers Come From* builds a world for these young men and watches it turn upside down, reframing itself slowly and painfully around the unforeseen consequences of snap decisions.”

— **Ella Taylor, *NPR***

“A transformative journey.”

— ***Military Times***

“Brilliantly captures the atmosphere and landscape.”

— **Dorothy Rabinowitz, *The Wall Street Journal***

“The last 10 years have produced an array of documentaries about post-9/11 America, but few are as haunting and compassionate”

— **Matt Zoller Seitz, *Salon.com***

“Courtney avoids all political posturing here, something rare in modern war documentaries. These are the guys, American kids. This is the war, it's awful. And this is what happens. In your own backyard.”

— **Tom Long, *The Detroit News***

“A significant, moving, saddening portrayal of the effects of war on the nation's young men.”

— **Charles Ealy, *Austin American Statesman***

“A heartbreakingly lived-in portrait. . . . packs a savage but understated punch, and should provide a bracing eye-opener and conversation-starter.”

— **Andrew Barker, *Variety***

“Deeply emotional. . . . a fine documentary by an experienced and talented filmmaker.”

— **Robert Mackey, *The Huffington Post***

“Courtney beautifully profiles her three leads. . . . Their journey — together and as individuals — from post-adolescence to adulthood is clear — and harrowing. 5 Stars (out of 5).”

— **Jennifer Merin, *About.com***

“*Where Soldiers Come From* is important because, for the first time, there is a film that shows why rural communities become the places that send so many of their young to war. . . . the beauty of Courtney’s film is the way it brings you into the families. . . . You see the war from both sides.”

— **Bill Bishop, *Daily Yonder***

“A profoundly moving experience; one of the best movies I have seen this year.”

— **Michael Moore, filmmaker**

“We hear the words honor, duty and sacrifice a lot around Veterans Day — and rightly so. What we rarely hear about are the individual, human stories that lead men and women to pick up the mantle of those powerful words and to fight in America’s name.”

— **Virginia Prescott, “Word of Mouth,” *New Hampshire Public Radio***

“Superb.”

— **Mike Hughes, *Lansing State Journal***

“Eye-opening and riveting. . . . Courtney avoids the maddening obviousness of . . . bitter socioeconomic truth through humanity and understatement.”

— **Aaron Hillis, *LA Weekly***

“A coming-of-age story, part *American Graffiti* (without the music) part *The Hurt Locker* (without the melodrama).”

— **Tom Jacobs, *Miller-McCune* magazine**

“A generous, surprising and compelling chronicle that more than lives up to its title.”

— **Mark Asch, *The L Magazine***

“This is a film worth watching, for military and non-military families alike.”

— **Dave Shiflett, journalist, *Alive Without Permission* blog**

“Powerful.”

— **Kimberly Jones, *Austin Chronicle***

“Spectacularly shot and pensively paced, Courtney’s documentary deserves to be watched closely and debated fiercely.”

— **Elliot Kotek, *Paste Magazine***

“There’s a hard-won and heart-stopping [scene] of homecoming at a rural high school that’s worthy of *Friday Night Lights*.”

— **Seth Colter Walls, *The Village Voice***