



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **National Museum of the United States Army observes first Memorial Day open to public**

**Fort Belvoir, Va.** — The National Museum of the United States Army is inviting the public to observe this Memorial Day by learning about the service and sacrifices of the 30 million Americans who have served in the U.S. Army. This Memorial Day will be the first that the Museum is open to the public due to last year’s temporary closure in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

“While the National Army Museum stands for every person who has served in the U.S. Army, we believe Memorial Day is a time for all of us to honor and remember the lives, courage, legacy, and service of those who made the ultimate sacrifice,” said Tammy E. Call, director of the museum. “Our Museum is proud to offer Americans a fitting venue to learn, reflect, and pay homage to those who died while serving our nation.”

Located on the Fairfax County Parkway, just south of Washington, D.C., the Museum is the first to tell the comprehensive history of the nation's oldest military service. Over Memorial Day weekend, the Museum and its nonprofit partner, The Army Historical Foundation, will host special events, including:

- **Poppy flower-making** activity, which will give visitors the opportunity to learn about the symbolism of the poppy on this holiday while making paper poppy flowers for a special Memorial Day display. Activity runs May 27 – 30, during Museum hours. Free to Museum visitors.
- **Screening of the documentary *Sunken Roads: Three Generations After D-Day***, which follows a group of WWII veterans returning to Normandy for the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. Screenings of the 90-minute documentary are free with admission. Showtimes below:

- May 27, 10 a.m. (followed by Q&A with filmmakers)
  - May 28, 10 a.m., 12 p.m., 2 p.m. (Q&A with filmmakers follows 10 a.m. showing)
  - May 29, 10 a.m., 2 p.m. (Q&A with filmmakers follows 2 p.m. showing)
  - May 29, 2 p.m. (followed by Q&A with filmmakers)
- **Memorial Day Remembrance and Moment of Silence** will take place in the Museum Lobby and include a playing of taps. takes place on May 30, 10 a.m. The Museum will also pause for a **National Moment of Silence** at 3 p.m.

On Memorial Day weekend, the Museum will open to families **Operation Safe Passage**, a simulated humanitarian mission where participants learn geography, science, technology, engineering, and math to respond to an earthquake. This free opportunity is usually only available to groups. Advance registration is required. Families reserving Museum admission tickets for May 28 – 30, between 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m., will be offered the chance to sign-up.

All weekend, the Museum will also host a hands-on showcase, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m., giving visitors an up-close look at Army uniforms and equipment from different eras of Army history. **The Army Historical Foundation Book Sale** of new and used military books will also take place May 27 – 29, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Media interested in touring the Museum or attending Memorial Day weekend events may contact public affairs officer Susan Smullen, [susan.l.fazakerley-smullen.civ@army.mil](mailto:susan.l.fazakerley-smullen.civ@army.mil).

The Museum is open every day of the year except December 25. Free, timed-entry tickets are required and available by request through the Museum's website at [theNMUSA.org](http://theNMUSA.org).

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### **About the National Museum of the United States Army**

The National Museum of the United States Army provides the only comprehensive portrayal of Army history and traditions through the eyes of the American Soldier. By preserving, interpreting, and exhibiting invaluable artifacts, the National Army Museum creates learning opportunities for all visitors and bonds the American people to their oldest military service. We are America's Army Museum. The U.S. Army owns and operates the Museum. The Army Historical Foundation continues its fundraising role in support of the Museum and manages all retail, catering and special events. For more information on the National Museum of the United States Army visit [www.theNMUSA.org](http://www.theNMUSA.org).

### **About The Army Historical Foundation**

The Army Historical Foundation establishes, assists, and promotes programs and projects that preserve the history of the American Soldier and promote public understanding of and appreciation for the contributions by all components of the U.S. Army and its members. The Foundation serves as the Army's official fundraising entity for the Capital Campaign for the National Museum of the United States Army. The award-winning, LEED- certified Museum opened on November 11, 2020, at Fort Belvoir, Va., and will honor the service and sacrifice of all American Soldiers who have served since the Army's inception in 1775. For more information on the Foundation and the National Museum of the United States Army, visit [www.armyhistory.org](http://www.armyhistory.org).