

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Bob Hope Exhibit Comes to National Museum of the United States Army;
Opening Weekend Activities Announced**

*The Army Historical Foundation sponsors “So Ready for Laughter: The Legacy of Bob Hope”
starting September 17*

Fort Belvoir, Va.— The National Museum of the United States Army will open a new travelling exhibit, *So Ready for Laughter: The Legacy of Bob Hope*, September 17, 2022. The exhibit, which was produced by The National WWII Museum with national touring exhibit sponsor Bob and Dolores Hope Foundation, will run through January 2023. A redesigned version of the Museum’s debut special exhibition *The Art of Soldiering* will also return. *The Art of Soldiering* highlights Soldier artwork from the Civil War to today.

Hope became known as the “one-man-morale machine” and was affectionally dubbed “G.I. Bob” by those in uniform during his 50 years performing USO shows to 11 million service members. *So Ready for Laughter* features nearly 50 artifacts and includes an original 11-minute documentary produced by award-winning filmmaker John Scheinfeld. Highlights include rare and unpublished photographs of Hope, wartime correspondence between Hope and service members, WWII-era relics engraved to Hope, videos of Hope’s traveling wartime troupe, and programs and scrapbooks for the star-studded fundraiser tour, Hollywood Victory Caravan. The gallery also includes an interactive touch-table and a video wall.

The schedule of Museum opening-weekend activities includes:

- **Hands-On History- 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.**

Discover the hardships and challenges Soldiers experienced during World War II through this interactive program. Museum educators use reproduction objects for visitors to explore the food, clothing, shelter, and equipment that made up the Soldier's load.

- **Jokey Karaoke- 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. & 3:00 p.m.**
Learn how Hope inspired the modern comedy monologue and share your best clean comedy jokes from behind the microphone. School-aged children are encouraged to join in.
- **Family Craft Activity- 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**
Create funny cards and letters for Soldiers and mail them through a special USO mailbox.
- **Swing Dance Demonstration: 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.**
Dancers from "GottaSwing" demonstrate moves like the Jitterbug and the Lindy Hop! Step back to the World War II era with these lively and popular social dances set to swing-style jazz music.

Additional offerings all weekend during Museum hours include:

- Golf Putting Competition
- Bob Hope Lemon Meringue in the Museum Café
- 10% discount all weekend on Bob Hope specific products

Media Information

Media interested in touring the Museum and the special exhibit space or attending opening weekend events may contact public affairs officer Susan Smullen, 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.

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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.

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.