

Media Advisory

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New Exhibition Tells Powerful Stories of Military Working Dogs at National Museum of the United States Army

Fort Belvoir, Va.— The National Museum of the United States Army will open a new traveling exhibition *Loyal Service: Working Dogs at War*, on August 25, 2023. Sponsored by the Army Historical Foundation, the exhibition will feature sixteen wooden sculptures, including those of life-sized working dogs.

The featured sculptures were crafted by internationally renowned artist James Mellick. Some of the war dog sculptures exhibit the wounds their human counterparts received in battle, while other sculptures are carved replicas of specific dogs and illustrate their experiences in war.

Among their stories are dogs who served multiple tours on the frontlines, suffered catastrophic injuries in the line of duty, and gave their lives in protection of their handlers. Their service records include rescuing service members from fiery waters during an air raid in World War II, chasing and subduing a gunman in a nighttime attack in Vietnam, and participating in special operations missions in Afghanistan.

Recently completed and on display for the first time is the sculpture, “Cairo,” a large Belgian Malinois. Cairo deployed to Afghanistan in 2011 with a U.S. Navy Seal Team as part of Operation Neptune Spear. For their actions, the Seal Team members were awarded the Silver Star. In 2022, Cairo was recognized by the Animals in War and Peace Medal of Bravery.

“The Army Historical Foundation is proud to bring Mr. Mellick’s award-winning work to the Museum in recognition of the invaluable service of military working dogs in partnership with their handlers,” said Foundation President Retired Brig. Gen. Burt Thompson. “Visitors will be struck by the emotional backstory of these sculptures and how military working dogs reflect the same Army values that Soldiers live by.”

The exhibition will be open daily until January 8, 2024, included with the Museum's free admission.

Important Exhibition Note: Some exhibition sculptures depict images that could be sensitive for children and veterans. Visitor discretion is advised.

Media Information

Media interested in touring the Museum and the special exhibition space may ahead of opening 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 www.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 honors 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.