



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Sunrise Service at National Infantry Museum Commemorates Australian ‘Memorial Day’**

*ANZAC Day celebrates local Aussies’ and Kiwis’ brotherhood of service*

**Columbus, Georgia – April 18, 2017:** Members of the Australian Army stationed at Fort Benning have organized a traditional ANZAC Day Service at dawn on **Tuesday, April 25**, on the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center’s Memorial Walk of Honor.

ANZAC (Australian New Zealand Army Corps) Day is a national day of remembrance observed every year on April 25. It was designated to honor the 78,000 ANZAC Soldiers who died at Gallipoli in Turkey during World War I. Today, it more broadly commemorates all who served in military operations in Australia and New Zealand.

ANZAC Day services are traditionally held at dawn, the time of the original landing of troops at Gallipoli. It celebrates the moments of quiet and peace that preceded the fighting. The Gunfire Breakfast is another tradition of the observance, symbolizing the historical last meal the troops enjoyed before going into battle. The coffee served usually includes a shot (or two) of rum for fortification in advance of the fight.

This commemoration will take place at the **173<sup>rd</sup> Airborne Brigade Memorial**, just south of the stadium. **The Gunfire Breakfast will start at 6:00 a.m. and the service will begin at 6:30 a.m.**

The 173<sup>rd</sup> memorial is the only one in the United States that includes the names of fallen Australian and New Zealand Soldiers alongside their American counterparts. The ceremony will focus on the close relationship between the ANZAC and the United States military, which have fought together for nearly a century.

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*The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, a 155-acre tract linking Columbus, Georgia, and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, is the first world-class site to pay tribute to the U.S. Army Infantryman and those who fight alongside him. Voted the #1 Free Museum in America in the 2016 USA Today Readers’ Choice Awards, the museum showcases the contributions of the Infantry Soldier in every war fought by the U.S. by offering immersive participation and engaging visitors in the unique experiences of the Infantry Soldier. The complex also includes a parade field, memorial walk of honor, authentic World War II Company Street, Vietnam Memorial Plaza, combat simulators, a full-service restaurant and a Giant Screen Theater. For more information, visit [www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org](http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org).*