



MEDIA ADVISORY

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Museum Renames Grand Hall in Honor of Carmen Cavezza

Long-time Army and Community Leader Honored for his Service

Columbus, Georgia – March 23, 2017: Thanks to the generosity of friends and supporters, the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center has renamed its grand hall after a man who has been at the center of the community's success in numerous and wide-ranging endeavors. **Cavezza Hall** was unveiled March 22 at a reception celebrating the retirement of Lieutenant General (Retired) Carmen Cavezza.

Cavezza retired late last year from his position of Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the National Infantry Museum Foundation. He is widely respected for many positions of leadership, including 33 years as an officer in the U.S. Army, Executive Director of Columbus '96, the committee charged with planning and hosting the 1996 Olympic softball competition; City Manager of Columbus; and executive director of the Leadership Institute at Columbus State University's Cunningham Center.

A group of museum supporters and philanthropists – including Cecil Cheves, Steve Butler, Carl Savory and others – pooled more than \$4 million in donations and pledges for the naming opportunity. The money will go toward paying off the museum's construction debt, an aspiration Cavezza pursued fervently during his five years at the National Infantry Museum Foundation. The new gifts and pledges will reduce the museum's uncovered debt to \$2.5 million.

Cavezza Hall, a venue used for large formal dinners, meetings and weddings, will include a new exhibit chronicling Cavezza's story. It contains his dress uniform and several artifacts collected over the years in his various positions. The tribute demonstrates Cavezza's far-reaching impact on both Soldiers and civilian members of the community.

Also unveiled was a Founders Circle paver honoring Cavezza. The large commemorative paver is one of four that sits at the base of the New York flag on Heritage Walk. New York is Cavezza's home state.

Close to 250 people attended the event. Speakers included Colonel (Retired) John Fuller, who was Cavezza's Chief of Staff during Cavezza's stint as Commanding General of the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning; the Honorable Bob Poydasheff, who was Mayor of Columbus at the time Cavezza served as City Manager; and Dr. Frank Brown, President of Columbus State University when Cavezza launched the Leadership Institute at the Cunningham Center.

In addition to the leadership positions listed above, Cavezza has been heavily involved in the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club of Columbus, PAWS Humane,

RiverWay South, the Valley Partnership, and the Georgia Military Affairs Coordinating Committee. He is a recipient of the Jim Woodruff Jr. Memorial Award, which recognizes an outstanding business and civic leader, the Boy Scouts Distinguished Citizen Award, and the Service Above Self Award from the Rotary Club of Columbus.

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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.*