



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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NIM to Celebrate “Freedom Fest” on July 4!

Independence Day celebration combines American history and family fun

Columbus, Georgia – May 30, 2014: The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center will host its second annual community-wide Independence Day celebration on Friday, July 4, 2014. The newly named “Freedom Fest” will be filled with music, kids’ activities, historical reenactments, food and fun.

The Maneuver Center of Excellence’s popular Rock Band will kick off the activities at 11 a.m. At noon, the MCoE Jazz Band swings in and at 1 p.m. the Concert Band fills the air with toe-tapping patriotic favorites. The Oneeders will rock the stage at 3 p.m., and Cedar Creek will finish up the musical entertainment with country and southern rock at 4:45 p.m.

All day, kids will enjoy bounce houses, face and hair painting, and balloon animals. New this year is an old-fashioned patriotic parade at 2 p.m., where youngsters are invited to dress up their bicycles, tricycles and wagons – or themselves! – and parade down Heritage Walk. Judges will award prizes for the most creative displays of patriotism. Parents will want to get free ID kits for their children through the GaCHIP program.

Back in front of the museum, re-enactors will fire two large Civil War era cannons twice each hour and pose for pictures with visitors. World War II Company Street will be open for self-guided tours between 11a.m. and 3 p.m. Volunteers will be on hand to help visitors locate names on the Vietnam Wall, and the Memorial Walk of Honor will be open all day.

The IMAX Theatre will be the perfect place to cool off, with alternating screenings of *D-Day 3D: Normandy 1944* and *We the People*. Visitors can purchase ice cream, barbecue plates, chicken sandwiches, funnel cakes, hot dogs, hamburgers, pretzels, beer, frozen mocktails and soft drinks from our vendors. The Fife and Drum restaurant and the IMAX concessions stand will be open for diners who’d rather stay indoors.

The National Infantry Foundation’s Premier Partners – Aflac, Amos-Cheves Foundation, Global Payments, Rivertown Auto Mall, TSYS, Navy Federal Credit Union, Columbus Marriott and Doubletree Hotels, National Security Associates, Pezold Management/McDonalds, W.C. Bradley Co., Hughston Clinic and St. Francis Hospital – are the event’s sponsors. WTVM and the Clear Channel family of radio stations are the event’s Media Sponsors.

The museum’s activities will end at 6 p.m. Visitors will be encouraged to head to Phenix City for a concert in the amphitheater and fireworks following at dark.

Admission to Freedom Fest is free. There will be nominal costs for the IMAX Theatre, combat simulators, and food and drinks. The National Infantry Foundation relies on donations to operate the museum and preserve the artifacts that tell the heroic story of the American Infantryman.

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The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park, a 200-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. As the only interactive Army Museum in the United States, 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 and 3-D IMAX[®] Theatre. For more information, visit www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org.