



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 – June 2, 2015: The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center will host its third annual community-wide Independence Day celebration on Saturday, July 4, 2015. Freedom Fest will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., and will be filled with music, kids' activities, cannon firings, historical reenactments, food, and fun.

The National Civil War Naval Museum at Port Columbus will bring the cannon this year for live firings every hour. Reenactors will set up a Civil War era campsite and will engage visitors in musket and cutlass demonstrations and drills. Additional living historians will set up displays inside the museum to allow visitors to touch and learn about both weapons and household items used in our country's early years.

All day, kids will enjoy bounce houses, face and hair painting, balloon animals and Superheroes. The Pint-Sized Patriot Parade starts at 2 p.m. Youngsters are invited to dress up their bicycles, tricycles, and wagons – and themselves! – and parade down Heritage Walk accompanied by John Philip Sousa marches. Judges will award prizes for the most creative displays of patriotism. In the museum's Grand Hall, parents can get free ID kits for their children through the GaCHIP program.

There'll be live music throughout the day from Tim Maggart, the Oneeders and the Wayne Miner Band just outside the museum's rotunda. Large tents will provide seating and shelter from the sun for audiences, but visitors are welcome to bring lawn chairs and blankets. The Silver Wings Parachute Demonstration Team is expected to drop in at Inouye Field at 2:30 p.m.

New this year will be demonstrations by iK9, an Auburn, Alabama, organization that trains service dogs to assist veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. World War II Company Street will be open for self-guided tours between 11 a.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* for just \$5 per person. 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 would rather stay indoors.

The museum's activities will end at 6 p.m. Visitors will be encouraged to head to uptown Columbus or Phenix City for a concert in the riverside amphitheater and fireworks 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.

Media and visitors alike will be subject to security bag checks. For additional information and an FAQ, visit our website at www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org/freedom-fest.

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The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park, 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. 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, Vietnam Memorial Plaza, authentic World War II Company Street and 3-D IMAX[®] Theatre. For more information, visit www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org.