



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, 2016: The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center will host its fourth annual community-wide Independence Day celebration on Monday, July 4, 2016. Freedom Fest will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and will be filled with music, kids' activities, historical reenactments, food, and fun.

New this year will be interactive demonstrations from the living historians at Historic Westville. The living history museum located in Lumpkin, Georgia, is now closed to the public, but fundraising is underway to move it to a 47-acre site near the National Infantry Museum. 19th century activities at this year's Freedom Fest will include woodworking, blacksmithing, twining/fingerweaving and cornhusk dollmaking.

Also new this year: Treadstone Climbing Gym is bringing a rock climbing wall suitable even for small children.

The event's signature live cannon firings are back on the schedule, starting at 11 a.m. and repeating every hour on the hour. The Columbus Historical Reenactors Association will set up a Civil War era campsite.

All day, kids will enjoy bounce houses, face and hair painting, balloon animals and Superheroes. In the museum's Grand Hall, parents can get free fingerprint ID kits for their children through the GaCHIP program.

Youngsters are invited to dress up their bicycles, tricycles, strollers and wagons – and

--more--

themselves! – for the Pint-Sized Patriots Parade down Heritage Walk at noon. At the end of the parade, eyes will turn to the skies as the Silver Wings parachute team jumps onto Inouye Field to deliver a copy of the Declaration of Independence.

Live bands will perform throughout the day just outside the museum’s rotunda. Large tents will provide seating and shelter from the sun.

The Giant Screen Theater will be the perfect place to cool off, with \$5 tickets all day. Vendors will sell ice cream, barbecue plates, chicken sandwiches, funnel cakes, hot dogs, hamburgers, beer, frozen mocktails and soft drinks. The Fife and Drum restaurant and the Rally Point Canteen concessions stand will be open for diners who’d rather stay indoors.

The museum’s activities will end at 5 p.m. Festival-goers 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 theater, food and drink. Donations made on July 4th will go toward construction of a new national monument to the Global War on Terrorism, to be located along Heritage Walk. 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 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 Giant Screen Theater. For more information, visit www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org.