



**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**For Immediate Release**

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## **Memorial Rededication To Honor Newly Fallen** *Gold Star Families, Public Invited to National Infantry Museum Ceremony*

**Columbus, Georgia – August 8, 2019:** The Global War on Terrorism Memorial will be rededicated at a ceremony **9 a.m. Saturday, September 7, 2019**, at the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center. At least 41 names of the war's recently fallen will be added to the memorial's black granite panels, bringing the total to 6,981.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony. Honored guests will be Gold Star family members, the designation given to those who've lost loved ones in military service. Gold Star families who have not yet received an invitation are encouraged to call the museum for details of the event, including a VIP reception the night before and a private brunch following the ceremony.

One of the speakers at the Friday night reception will be Haley Uthlaut, a GWOT veteran herself, whose husband was killed by small arms fire in Iraq in 2006. She will tell guests why she returned to combat after her husband's funeral and how she turned the darkest day of her life into something positive.

Of the 41 new names to be dedicated, 34 belonged to service members killed since last September. The other 7 died earlier, but have just recently been added to the government's Defense Casualty Analysis System.

The memorial to the Global War on Terrorism includes eight granite panels etched with the names of the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines who have died in service to GWOT since 9/11. A 13-foot steel beam taken from the wreckage of the World Trade Center and donated to the museum by New York City firefighters sits atop concrete columns representing the Twin Towers. The memorial features nine bronze figures representing an Infantry squad, illustrations of each service's role in protecting our nation and narrative panels chronicling the nation's longest war.

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The joint-service memorial stands in honor of all service members who have served in the Global War on Terrorism and the families who support them. This includes active duty service members and veterans, along with those who've made the ultimate sacrifice defending their country.

The memorial will be updated annually, and a rededication ceremony will be scheduled for the first Saturday after Labor Day each year.

The museum will remain closed until noon on September 7.

Gold Star families and others seeking information about the event are encouraged to call the museum at 706-653-9234.



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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, Global War on Terrorism Memorial, Vietnam Memorial Plaza, authentic World War II Company Street and Giant Screen Theater. For more information, visit [www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org](http://www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org).***