



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

For more information, contact:

Cyndy Cerbin

Director of Communications

706/653-9234

ccerbin@nationalinfantryfoundation.org

Veterans Day at the National Infantry Museum

Paver Dedication, Merrill's Marauder Appearance, Enduring Freedom band

Columbus, Georgia – November 6, 2015: The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center will offer a number of special activities for visitors on Wednesday, November 11, in commemoration of Veterans Day.

Veterans Day Mini Camp

9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Patriot Hall, inside the museum



The 4-hour mini-camp teaches children 5-11 the meaning and importance of Veterans Day and the sacrifices Soldiers make daily. Campers will write thank you cards for Soldiers and Veterans, make crafts, and tour the museum. \$10 per camper. Contact the Camp Director at campdirector@nationalinfantrymuseum.org or 706-653-9234, ext 5849 to register.

7th Annual Batson-Cook Honor Bus Tour

9:45 a.m. arrival



Batson-Cook, the West Point, Georgia-based company that built the National Infantry Museum, will once again treat a busload of Veterans to a full day of touring and camaraderie at the museum. Many of the participants this year – from all branches and eras of service – are from the Atlanta area. Young Soldiers from Fort Benning will line the sidewalk leading to the museum to salute their arrival.

Paver Dedication Ceremony

10 a.m., Heritage Walk (east side of museum)



The Veterans Day paver dedication ceremony will feature guest speaker Brigadier General (Retired) Jim Yarbrough, and remarks by Maneuver Center of Excellence Commanding General MG Scott Miller. More than 300 granite commemorative pavers will be dedicated. Family and friends will have the opportunity to make rubbings following the ceremony.

--more--

World War II Company Street

11 a.m. – 3 p.m.



World War II Company Street, made up of seven authentic Army buildings, will be open for self-guided tours. It includes a barracks, mess hall, chapel, supply room, orderly room and the headquarters and sleeping quarters used by General George S. Patton during the build-up to World War II.

Flag Retirement Ceremony

12:30 p.m., Fire Pit (behind museum)



Local Scouts will conduct an official flag retirement ceremony at the fire pit behind the museum. Visitors and residents are encouraged to bring torn, tattered or soiled flags for proper disposal.

Enduring Freedom Honor Team Concert

11 a.m. – 12 p.m., Museum Lobby



The Enduring Freedom Honor Team, an ensemble of talented musicians from Fredericksburg, Virginia, will perform a free concert of patriotic music in the lobby of the National Infantry Museum at 11 a.m. on November 11. The high school students dress in World War II era khaki and Eisenhower jackets, and play period music. The ensemble has played in such venues as the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia, the Pentagon, Walter Reed Army Hospital, the National Mall in Washington,

D.C. and Veterans Administration hospitals across the nation. They also have performed for World War II and Korean War veterans who took part in the Honor Flight Program. The ensemble was created to connect young people with members of the “greatest generation.” Their vintage uniforms and period music resonate with older veterans. In return, the teens get the opportunity to meet veterans and hear their stories.

Merrill’s Marauder Appearance

Museum Lobby



Meet 97-year-old Vincent Melillo, one of the soldiers selected to be part of the 5307th Composite Unit (Provisional) during World War II. The unit, which came to be known as Merrill’s Marauders, was famous for its deep-penetration missions behind Japanese lines, often engaging Japanese forces superior in number. Hear the retired master sergeant’s harrowing stories and see some of the artifacts he has collected over the years.

At a Glance:

- 9 a.m. – Veterans Day Mini Camp for kids 5-11
- 9:45 a.m. – Arrival of Batson-Cook Honor Bus
- 10 a.m. – Paver Dedication Ceremony on Heritage Walk
- 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. – World War II Company Street open for self-guided tours
- 11 a.m. – Moment of silence observed
- 11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - Concert by Enduring Freedom Honor Team
- 12:30p.m. – Flag retirement ceremony
- Merrill's Marauder Vince Melillo

The museum will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. November 11. There is no admission fee, however a \$5 per person donation is requested. The Fife and Drum restaurant will be open for lunch.

###

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, and authentic World War II Company Street. For more information, visit www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org.