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WWI Centennial Commissioner to Speak at NIM

How the “war to end all wars” presented both challenges and opportunities



Columbus, Georgia – April 20, 2017: U.S. World War I Centennial Commissioner Dr. Monique Seefried will be the guest speaker at the next presentation of the National Infantry Museum Foundation’s Leadership Lecture Series **Tuesday, May 2, 2017.**

Dr. Seefried’s presentation is entitled *World War I and the U.S.: Challenges and Opportunities.*

Congress established the U.S. World War I Centennial Commission in 2013. It is responsible for developing programs and activities at the national level to commemorate the centennial of World War I. It also works with state and local arms of the commission to organize commemorative events.

Dr. Seefried was born in Tunisia, and grew up in France, Italy and Austria. After a classical (Latin/Greek) secondary education, she did her undergraduate and graduate studies in History at the Sorbonne University in Paris, from where she also holds her Ph.D. She has been living in Atlanta since 1977.

As president of the Croix Rouge Farm Memorial Foundation for the last decade, Dr. Seefried oversaw the private purchase of a World War I battlefield in France, and commissioned one of the best sculptors in England to create a memorial statue to the US 42nd (Rainbow) Division. She also served as chairman of the International Baccalaureate (IB) Board of Governors from 2003-2009. Prior to that, she founded and served as Executive Director of the Center for the Advancement and Study of International Education (CASIE) in Atlanta, on whose board she still serves. She also serves on the board of the United World College in New Mexico.

The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with book signings with three different authors of World War I history: *Send the Alabamians: World War I Fighters in the Rainbow Division*

by Rod Frazer, *Wolfhounds and Polar Bears: The American Expeditionary Force in Siberia, 1918-1920*, and *Over the Top*, edited by Dave Stieghan. The books will be available for purchase.

A light reception will begin at 6:00 p.m., and Dr. Seefried's presentation will begin at 6:30 p.m. in the Giant Screen Theater.

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The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center, 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. Voted the #1 Free Museum in America in the 2016 USA Today Readers' Choice Awards, 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, Vietnam Memorial Plaza, combat simulators, a full-service restaurant and a Giant Screen Theater. For more information, visit www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org.