

## **Special Events Mark Veterans Day at Cantigny Park**

*Morning statue dedication and evening luminary display will honor those who served*

**WHEATON, IL, Nov. 7, 2008** — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, part of the McCormick Foundation, will host two special events on Tuesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day:

- At 10:40 am, Cantigny will dedicate a bronze statue outside the Visitors Center commemorating the soldiers of the 28<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, First Division, who led the assault in the Battle of Cantigny, France, in 1918 – the first American victory of World War I. Artist Stephen Spears created the sculpture and will be present at the ceremony. A photo of his “Lion of Cantigny” statue is attached.
- From sunset to 9:00 pm, witness a moving Luminary Tribute on the Cantigny parade field that recalls the valor and sacrifice of all who died in combat while serving our country. More than 650,000 Americans have given their lives since the Revolutionary War. Each of the 2,100 candles on display at Cantigny will represent six 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division soldiers killed in action from World War I to the present.

“Veterans Day is when we pay respect to all those who served in our military, and this year’s observance will be extra special,” said Paul Herbert, executive director of Cantigny’s First Division Museum, part of the McCormick Foundation. “Our luminary display will allow visitors to grasp how many of our fellow citizens have lost their lives in battle, and help us remember the debt we owe to all of our honored dead.”

Also on Veterans Day, the First Division Museum will provide a Thank-A-Vet letter writing table where visitors can send a note to a veteran at Hines VA Hospital or to a deployed soldier. Visitors may also participate in the Pocket Flag Project by folding miniature American flags to be sent to troops in harm’s way. Both activities will take place in the museum’s lobby.

Finally, the Cantigny Visitors Center will serve as a collection point for donations to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans in Wheaton. For information about the shelter’s needs, please visit [www.helpaveteran.org/wish\\_list.htm](http://www.helpaveteran.org/wish_list.htm).

Admission to Cantigny Park on Veterans Day is free. The park entrance is located on Winfield Road, just south of Roosevelt Road in Wheaton.

###

**About the McCormick Foundation**

The McCormick Foundation is a nonprofit organization committed to strengthening our free, democratic society by investing in children, communities and country. Through its five grantmaking programs, Cantigny Park and Golf, and three world-class museums, the Foundation helps build a more active and engaged citizenry. It was established as a charitable trust in 1955, upon the death of Colonel Robert R. McCormick, the longtime editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. The McCormick Foundation is one of the nation's largest charities, with \$1.2 billion in assets. For more information, please visit [www.McCormickFoundation.org](http://www.McCormickFoundation.org).

**Media Contact:**

Jeff Reiter  
McCormick Foundation  
(630) 260-8218  
JReiter@McCormickFoundation.org