

Armed Forces Day Excitement at Cantigny Park on May 16!

Full slate of activities planned, plus three visiting military helicopters; free parking and admission all day

WHEATON, IL, May 7, 2009 — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, part of the McCormick Foundation, invites the public to a special Armed Forces Day celebration on Saturday, May 16, from 9 am to 4 pm.

The day will feature attractions for the whole family including displays of military aircraft, vehicles and equipment; live music; Living History re-enactors; crafts for the kids; and a chance to meet active-duty 1st Infantry Division soldiers from Fort Riley, Kansas.

Armed Forces Day is one of four “patriotic holidays” celebrated at Cantigny. On these occasions, the park is pleased to offer free parking and admission.

Three helicopters from Fort Riley will be visiting on May 16—the UH-60 Black Hawk, CH-47 Chinook and AH-64 Apache. For those wishing to see the aircraft land at Cantigny, expected arrival time is 3:30 pm on Friday, May 15. They will depart on Sunday, May 17, around 10 am.

The Chicago Brass Band will play three sets on Armed Forces Day in front of the First Division Museum—at 10 am, 11 am and 1 pm. At 12:30 pm, Regis Snyder, a museum volunteer, will perform songs and tell stories based on the major conflicts involving the U.S. military over the years.

At noon, as part of an on-going research workshop on Operations Desert Shield and Storm, there will be a brief memorial service in honor of the 1st Division’s casualties in that conflict. It is open to the public.

Throughout the day, in the First Division Museum lobby, visitors will be able to write thank you letters to soldiers and veterans. They’ll also have an opportunity to fold a small American flag and write a note to be given to a soldier deploying overseas.

For more information, please call 630 260 8227 or visit FirstDivisionMuseum.org.

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About the Cantigny First Division Foundation

The Cantigny First Division Foundation (CFDF) promotes public learning about America’s military heritage and affairs through the history of the Big Red One—the famed 1st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. It also chronicles and preserves the 1st Division’s illustrious history, and conducts public outreach through the Cantigny First Division Museum, Robert R. McCormick Research Center and the Cantigny Military History Series. CFDF is part of the McCormick Foundation and located on the grounds

of Cantigny Park in Wheaton, Illinois, the home of the late Col. Robert R. McCormick, publisher of the Chicago Tribune and a veteran of the 1st Division in World War I.

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