

Veterans Day Observance at Cantigny Features Luminary Tribute

WHEATON, IL, October 27, 2009 — Cantigny Park and the First Division Museum will commemorate Veterans Day with a solemn Luminary Tribute that recalls the honor and sacrifice of those who died in combat while serving our country. Veterans Day is Wednesday, November 11.

Approximately 2,200 luminaries will be placed on Cantigny's Parade Field, each representing six 1st Infantry Division soldiers killed in action from World War I to the present. The candles will also stand in memory of the more than 650,000 men and women who gave their lives in combat since the Revolutionary War.

"This tribute is by nature a powerful visual reminder of how many people have sacrificed their lives to defend our nation through the years," said Paul Herbert, executive director of the First Division Museum. "As citizens and as a community this is an opportunity to honor all veterans, living or dead, and give thanks for the freedoms we enjoy today because of their service."

The Luminary Tribute will begin at sunset (approximately 6 pm) and conclude at 9 pm. Admission is free and open to all. Visitors are welcome to walk through the rows of lights or observe the display from three sides on a designated driving route. The tribute will take place regardless of weather conditions.

Cantigny Post 556 of the American Legion will hold an open house at the Visitors Center during the luminary display. All are invited to come in and learn about current issues facing veterans. In addition, the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans (Wheaton) will have an information booth. Bertie's Coffee Shop, also in the Visitors Center, will be open throughout the evening for snacks and refreshments.

Parking at Cantigny is free on Veterans Day. The First Division Museum, where admission is always free, will be open from 10 am to 4 pm. For more details visit FirstDivisionMuseum.org or call 630 260 8227.

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About the Cantigny First Division Foundation

The Cantigny First Division Foundation, part of the McCormick Foundation, 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 is 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 First Division in World War I.

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