



Press Release

Author Kelly Kennedy to Speak at First Division Museum

WHEATON, IL, October 18, 2010 — The First Division Museum at Cantigny invites the public to hear Kelly Kennedy, author of *They Fought for Each Other: The Triumph and Tragedy of the Hardest Hit Unit in Iraq*, on Wednesday, November 17, at 7:30 pm.

Kennedy served in the U.S. Army from 1987 to 1993. Her book, published this year, is based on her experience as an embedded reporter for *Army Times*. She tells the remarkable story of the 1/26th Infantry during Operation Iraqi Freedom, when the battalion suffered more casualties than any other since Vietnam. Kennedy experienced and witnessed countless hardships on the frontlines during urban combat (in Baghdad) that would wreak as much psychological havoc as physical within the company. She notes the difficulties of implementing the new counterinsurgency doctrine and the heavy toll exacted of those on the ground.

A senior writer for *Army Times*, Kennedy has earned numerous prizes for her work, including the 2010 John B. Oakes Award for Environmental Journalism and the 2010 Disabled American Veterans Bugle Award for her coverage of the burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2008, she was named a finalist for the Michael Kelly Award for a series about the unit she embedded with in Iraq. She is also a 2008 Ochberg Fellow and a 2008 Rosalynn Carter Mental Health Journalism Foundation Fellow.

In addition, Kennedy is the current president of Military Reporters & Editors, an association of reporters, editors, photographers, television news people, educators, retired journalists, college students and others who cover or are interested in national security and veterans issues.

A book signing will follow Kennedy's presentation, and copies will be available for purchase. Doors open at 6:45 pm. Admission and parking are complimentary.

The event is part of the First Division Museum's popular series, *A Date with History*. The programs, held on the first Wednesday of each month and other select dates, feature an evening of lively discussion with authors, panelists, historians and special speakers. For information about upcoming programs visit FirstDivisionMuseum.org.

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About the First Division Museum

The First Division Museum at Cantigny, 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 stands in tribute to all who have served our country in the armed forces. The museum's main exhibit hall transports visitors to the trenches of World War I, the beaches of World War II and the

jungles of Vietnam. Outside, tanks are displayed from every era, along with personnel carriers and artillery. The Robert R. McCormick Research Center, open to the public, houses the museum's library, archival and photo collections. Visit the First Division Museum at Cantigny online at FirstDivisionMuseum.org.

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