



Press Release

Cantigny Plans Luminary Tribute on Veterans Day

WHEATON, IL, October 25, 2010 — Cantigny Park and the First Division Museum will commemorate Veterans Day with a solemn Luminary Tribute to those who died in combat while serving our country. Veterans Day is Thursday, November 11.

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

“This will be our third such tribute on Veterans Day, and it’s a powerful visual reminder of how many people have sacrificed their lives to defend our nation,” 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.

In honor of Veterans Day, the First Division Museum will offer extended hours, remaining open until 9 pm. At 7:30 pm, the museum will present “Veterans’ Voices,” a program featuring living history re-enactors reading actual letters sent by soldiers from the Revolutionary War through Desert Storm.

Cantigny Post 556 of the American Legion will host tables at the museum and at the Cantigny Visitors Center during the luminary display. 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. Admission to the First Division Museum is always free. For more details visit FirstDivisionMuseum.org or call 630 260 8187.

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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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