



## **“Pillars of Honor” at First Division Museum on September 25**

*Tribute event for World War II veterans will feature scale model of National World War II Memorial and remarks by Major General (Retired) James H. Mukoyama*

**WHEATON, IL, September 7, 2011** — The First Division Museum at Cantigny welcomes Pillars of Honor on Sunday, September 25, at 2 pm. At this special program—free and open to the public—a scale model of the National World War II Memorial will be displayed, paying tribute to all those who served in the Great War.

Pillars of Honor, based in Des Plaines (IL), worked with the memorial's architect, Friedrich St. Florian, to secure the original model of the monument that now stands in Washington, D.C. Since its dedication in 2004, organizations such as Honor Flight have arranged for thousands of WWII veterans to visit the memorial and enjoy a day of camaraderie. Many, however, are simply unable to make the trip to Washington. According to Pillars of Honor, the average age of surviving WWII vets is 89 years old.

The scale model to be unveiled at the First Division Museum is a way of bringing the National World War II Memorial to the people it honors. Most importantly, it serves as a visual reminder of their personal sacrifice and service to our country—delivered at a critical time in our nation's history.

Major General (Retired) James H. Mukoyama will speak at the Pillars of Honor event. General Mukoyama became the youngest General Officer in the U.S. Army in 1987 and subsequently the youngest Major General when he received his second star three years later. He was also the first Asian-American in U.S. history to command an Army division.

There is no cost to attend Pillars of Honor and Cantigny will waive its usual parking fee for those attending. Complimentary shuttle transportation from the parking area to the First Division Museum will be available. The scale model will be on display until the museum closes at 5 pm.

WWII veterans who plan to attend are encouraged to register by September 16 so that their names may be included in the printed program. The registration form can be downloaded from the Pillars of Honor website, [pillarssofhonor.org](http://pillarssofhonor.org), and also from the First Division Museum site. Registration forms should be mailed or faxed to Pillars of Honor following the instructions online. For more information, veterans and family members may call 847.954.0520 or e-mail [info@pillarssofhonor.org](mailto:info@pillarssofhonor.org).

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### **About the First Division Museum**

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundation, promotes public learning about America's military heritage and affairs

through the history of the Big Red One—the famed 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://FirstDivisionMuseum.org).

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