

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER PRESENTS SPECIAL EVENTS TO HELP FRAME *ART OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER*

Free Admission during Opening Weekend for Veterans

Philadelphia, PA – As the *Art of the American Soldier* exhibition debuts on September 24 at the National Constitution Center, visitors of all ages can participate in special programs and events that allow even deeper exploration of the soldier experience. Families are invited to join the Center during opening weekend of the exhibition, as the Grand Hall Lobby is transformed into a 1940s USO canteen. In honor of our nation's service men and women, admission will be FREE for veterans during opening weekend. (Admission is free at all times for active military personnel and career military retirees.)

Throughout the run of the exhibition, visitors will have the opportunity to engage in conversations with veterans and active members of the military about their experiences. Children and their families can also enjoy special programming on holidays, including Veteran's Day and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. In addition, the Center will host an evening program for higher age groups, exploring the experiences of soldiers on the front lines through the award-winning documentary *Restrepo*.

Events include:

Special Events:

Art of the American Soldier Opening Weekend

Friday, September 24 – Sunday, September 26, 2010, 9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

FREE with regular museum admission. Military families receive \$2 off admission. Veterans, active military personnel, and career military retirees are FREE during these special weekend events.

-MORE-

ADD ONE/AMERICAN SOLDIER PROGRAMS

To celebrate the opening of *Art of the American Soldier*, visitors will be transported to a 1940s USO canteen, featuring World War II era décor, music, dancing, and photo opportunities. During a special program, visitors will explore the experience of the American soldier at different points in our nation's history and participate in an Army Protocol Workshop. On Friday and Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., kids are invited make World War II era arts and crafts, such as model airplanes, playing cards, and victory gardens, to learn about the different ways children helped the war effort from the home front. The Center will also pay tribute to the work of the United Services Organization, which has a proud history of serving our nation's Armed Forces.

Military Preview Hours

Sunday, September 26, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

FREE

Veterans, active military personnel, and career military retirees are invited to an exclusive viewing of the *Art of the American Soldier* exhibition.

Educator Open House

Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Admission: FREE

Reservations Required at 215.409.6700

Educators will experience the Center's innovative programs in order to enhance their next class visit. Participants will receive free materials for the classroom and admission to the Center's exhibitions, including *Art of the American Soldier*. The Center offers pre-, post-, and on-site lessons for every grade level, aligned with national standards. These lessons will be available for download from

www.constitutioncenter.org/artoftheamericansoldier under the "Educator Resources" tab.

Educator Workshops

By request

Full Day: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Half Day: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. or 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Admission: \$40 per person for full day, \$25 for half day (groups of 10 or more)

Reservations Required at 215.409.6756

These full or half-day workshops will provide teachers with access to the Center's core exhibition, as well as *Art of the American Soldier*. The Center's education staff will present grade-level-appropriate sessions about the Center's new educational projects, including iPod tours, theater productions, and national student programs. In addition, teachers will receive classroom-ready resources and will learn how to apply the Center's civic education framework in their classrooms. Act 48 and Continuing Education Credits are available.

Halloween Celebration

Saturday, October 30, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. and Sunday, October 31, 2010, 12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Admission: FREE with museum admission

This Halloween, visitors to the Center will hear spooky tales from the American Revolution. At special craft activity tables, children can create badges, medals, and hats worn by American soldiers.

-MORE-

ADD TWO/AMERICAN SOLDIER PROGRAMS

Film Screening of Restrepo

Tuesday, November 9, 2010

5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. (“Cocktails and Conversation”), 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. (film screening and discussion)

Admission: \$15 for non-members, \$9 for members, \$7 for students and teachers, free for 1787 Members

Reservations Required at 215.409.6700

In partnership with the National Geographic Channel, the Center will host a screening of the feature-length documentary *Restrepo* at 6:30 p.m. *Restrepo*, winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the 2010 Sundance Film Festival, chronicles a platoon of U.S. soldiers in Afghanistan’s Korengal Valley, considered one of the most dangerous outposts in the U.S. military, until it closed on April 14, 2010. This “experiential” film is intended to capture the real experiences of combat, boredom, and fear through the eyes of the soldiers themselves. Following the screening, *Restrepo* filmmakers Sebastian Junger and Tim Hetherington will participate in a discussion about the film. (Please note: This film is rated TV-MA LV and includes raw language and intense combat that may not be appropriate for all viewers. Viewer discretion is advised.)

Kicking off the evening, guests are invited to join the Center for a special, pre-film reception, "Cocktails and Conversation," with soldier-artists and veterans. Gallery talks inside the *Art of the American Soldier* exhibition, which will remain open from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., will stimulate conversation about documenting the experience of soldiers and will explore how art can define memories associated with war.

Veteran’s Day

Thursday, November 11, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Admission: FREE with museum admission (admission is FREE to all veterans on November 11, 2010)

The National Constitution Center will honor our nation’s servicemen and women during a moving Veteran’s Day celebration. The theme of this year’s event is service, honoring both the service of American soldiers and highlighting ways in which we can be of service to those who have fought to defend our country. Events include discussions with veterans and soldiers who will explore the ways in which they have served our country, both in the armed forces and on the home front; military musters for children and families; flag folding demonstrations; a dramatic reading of letters written by soldiers from the Revolutionary War to the present; and more. In addition, visitors will have the opportunity to visit information tables from veteran’s service organizations throughout the country.

The Center will also hold a moment of silence and a wreath laying ceremony, featuring the Drexel University Color Guard, a performance of “Taps” by the Bugle Corps, and a performance by the 28th Division Band. The event will conclude with an Army flyover. At 3:00 p.m., guests can enjoy performances by the Marine Corps Band, Silent Drill Platoon, and a drum and bugle corps. A special commissioning ceremony will also take place on the Center’s Grand Hall Overlook.

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ADD THREE/AMERICAN SOLDIER PROGRAMS

Thanksgiving Celebration

Friday, November 26 – Sunday, November 28, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Admission: FREE with museum admission

During the Center's 2010 Thanksgiving celebration, guest can give thanks to the men and women of the armed forces by writing letters and creating care packages to send to the troops.

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

Tuesday, December 7, 2010, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Admission: FREE with museum admission

The Center will commemorate Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day with special programming for visitors of all ages. Guests will learn about the events leading up to World War II, the involvement of the United States, and the struggles of both the soldiers and the citizens on the home front.

Army/Navy Game Weekend

Friday, December 10, 2010, 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 11, 2010, 11:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 12, 2010, 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Admission: FREE with museum admission

Visitors to the Center can prepare for the excitement of the Army/Navy Game with special activities on Friday, December 10. Families can join in an interactive program that explores the history of this historic game and the friendly, but intense rivalry between Army and Navy. Kids can also participate in a military protocol workshop to learn when and how to salute, the proper way to address an officer, and the correct way to wear a uniform. On Saturday, visitors can enjoy a special pep rally leading up to the 2010 Army/Navy Game at Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia. Guests can then view the game on the giant screen in the Center's Kirby Auditorium and on screens throughout the building. Children and their families are also invited to get into the spirit by creating crafts throughout the day. The excitement will continue through Sunday, with the Center's interactive activities available throughout the day. Admission to the museum will be free on December 12, courtesy of Bank of America.

Commissioning Ceremonies

By request

The Center has served as a fitting backdrop for military commissioning ceremonies throughout the years. Members of the military are invited to hold commissioning ceremonies during museum hours on the Grand Hall Overlook, free of charge. Please call 215.409.6685 to book.

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ADD FOUR/AMERICAN SOLDIER PROGRAMS

Daily Offerings and Tours:

Art of the American Soldier iPod Tour

\$5 per person, \$3 per person for school groups

During this engaging audio tour, visitors are taken on an in-depth journey through the exhibition as soldier-artists and veterans describe their art and experiences in their own words. The *Art of the American Soldier* iPod tour has been generously underwritten by Team Clean, Inc. *Produced with the generous assistance of the Drexel University School of Education.*

Art of the American Soldier Family Guide

FREE with admission to *Art of the American Soldier*

With this special guide, families can work together to explore the history and art of the soldier experience.

Art of the American Soldier Student Guide (Grades 5-12)

FREE with admission to *Art of the American Soldier*

This special activity guide will help students explore the history and art of the soldier experience.

Art of the American Soldier Exhibition Tour for Adults

\$300 (maximum of 30 people per group)

Reservations Required at 215.409.6800

During this 45-minute tour, groups will gain deeper insight into the *Art of the American Soldier* exhibition.

Student Group Package: In the Army Now

\$14 per student (minimum of 20 students required)

Reservations Required at 215.409.6800

This interactive program explores the experience of the American soldier during three defining conflicts in our nation's history: the Revolutionary War, the Civil War, and World War II. Students can step into the shoes of the men and women who have served our country and learn about their daily lives, the duties they have carried out, and the sacrifices they have made. This package includes a guided experience of the *Art of the American Soldier* exhibition; admission to the Center's core exhibition, *The Story of We the People*; and the award-winning theater show "Freedom Rising."

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ADD FIVE/AMERICAN SOLDIER PROGRAMS

Additional Programming:

Interactive Exhibit Stations

FREE with admission to *Art of the American Soldier*

Visitors can enjoy daily, hands-on activities at interactive stations throughout the *Art of the American Soldier* exhibition:

- Gallery Talk – Guests will be introduced to the main themes and goals of the exhibition.
- Mail Call Station – Visitors will have the opportunity to write letters to soldiers stationed over seas.
- Veteran/Soldier Talk Station – Visitors can engage in conversations with veterans and active members of the military about their experiences.
- Online Art Gallery Station – Visitors will have the opportunity to view artwork submitted by veterans and active military in the community.

Through Their Eyes

Twice an hour Wednesday – Saturday, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

FREE with admission to *Art of the American Soldier*

The Center will feature a special ten-minute theatrical experience, *Through Their Eyes*. Taking place inside the *Art of the American Soldier* exhibition, this moving and thought provoking theatrical piece will engage visitors with the stories of the war artists on the front lines. *Through Their Eyes* tells the story of a young soldier who is drafted into the Vietnam War. By joining the combat art team, he serves his country by telling the stories of his fellow soldiers through his artwork.

Created by the National Constitution Center in conjunction with the U.S. Army Center of Military History and the National Museum of the United States Army, *Art of the American Soldier* unveils powerful works of art created by American soldiers in the line of duty. Drawn from the Army's rarely seen collection of over 15,000 paintings and sketches, the exhibition showcases the artistic response of soldiers from World War I through the present day. The unprecedented exhibition will make its world debut at the Center from September 24, 2010 through March 31, 2011.

Admission to *Art of the American Soldier* is FREE with regular museum admission of \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors ages 65 and over, and \$8 for children ages 4-12.

Veterans and military families will receive \$2 off admission. Active military personnel, career military retirees, and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. iPod audio tours cost an additional \$5. The *Art of the American Soldier* iPod tour has been generously underwritten by Team Clean, Inc. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

ADD SIX/AMERICAN SOLDIER PROGRAMS

The Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company and The Coca-Cola Company are the presenting local sponsors for the *Art of the American Soldier* exhibition at the National Constitution Center.

CBS 3 and The CW Philly are the official media partners of *Art of the American Soldier*. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

Army art is furnished courtesy of the Department of the Army, Center of Military History. Sponsorship of this exhibition does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the sponsor's products or services.

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising." The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

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