

# **NEWS RELEASE**

COLUMBUS, OH

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## **NVMM Announces Memorial Day Weekend Events Including a New Opportunity to Remember a Service Member**

\$5 Admission on Memorial Day; Memorial Day Ceremony in person and live-streamed

COLUMBUS, Ohio - The National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM) today shared their Memorial Day weekend events created to honor and remember our fallen service members. Events include a CrossFit Hero Workout, "The Murph," Memorial Day motorcycle ride, Gold Star Family Candlelight Vigil and the Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony (in person and streamed on YouTube and Facebook).

This year, the NVMM is asking the public to help fill the museum lawn with flags to honor our fallen heroes. For a gift of \$20 or more, the NVMM will plant a flag on the lawn and list your service member's name, service branch and rank on nationalymm.org in remembrance of those who sacrificed their lives for our freedoms.

"On Memorial Day weekend, we ask every American to remember our loved ones, friends and teammates who have fallen while serving our nation," said Colonel Bill Butler, U.S. Army (Retired), acting president of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. "It's important to say the names of those we have lost and to share their stories, so they live on in our hearts and here through the NVMM and the events of Memorial Day weekend."

#### **New Exhibition Opening**

Memorial Day Weekend at the NVMM kicks off with the opening of a new exhibition, Ghost Army: The Combat Con Artists of World War II, exclusively sponsored by the E.L.Wiegand Foundation, on Friday, May 24, at 7 p.m. Ghost Army explores how the top-secret U.S. Army 23rd Headquarters Special Troops known as the "Ghost Army" utilized artists, engineers and soldiers to create and deploy the first mobile, tactical deception unit in U.S. Army history. The unit utilized inflatable rubber tanks, trucks and planes, false radio



messages, sound effects and more to deceive enemy forces. Opening night tickets are available online.

#### Saturday, May 25

"The Murph" CrossFit Hero Workout (Heats at 8 a.m., 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.) | \$30

Join the NVMM and CrossFit Clintonville for a traditional Memorial Day workout honoring Medal of Honor recipient and U.S. Navy SEAL, Lieutenant Michael Murphy. The Murph is guaranteed to make participants feel the sacrifice but don't be intimidated. A team approach and assistance including bands and modified movements allow for broader participation and promotes teamwork. Registration includes a branded shaker bottle, free parking and free museum admission for the remainder of the day.



Memorial Day Ride to the NVMM (11 a.m.) | \$15

Motorcyclists are invited to honor our fallen service members with a <u>Memorial Day Weekend ride</u> from the starting point of their choice and ending at the NVMM at 11 a.m. Tickets include free, reserved motorcycle parking, museum admission and a 15 percent discount in the NVMM MX (Museum Exchange) on ride day.

#### Sunday, May 26

Gold Star Family Candlelight Vigil (7 p.m.) | Free

During Memorial Day Weekend, we honor the sacrifices of families of the fallen who have lost a loved one in service to our country with a Candlelight Vigil. Participants may attend a brief reception prior to the Candlelight procession from the museum rooftop down to Memorial Grove. Guest speaker, Tara Harris, daughter of First Sergeant Glenn Harris of B Company, 3rd Battalion, 75th Ranger Regiment, will share her path to healing by reaching out to the Rangers who knew her father best. Country music singer and U.S. Army Ranger Veteran, Keni Thomas, will share a special tribute for



Families of the Fallen. Thomas served in Mogadishu, Somalia, as a member of Task Force Ranger, a unit whose story was shared in "Blackhawk Down."

#### Monday, May 29

Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony (10 a.m.) | \$5 Admission and Streamed on YouTube and Facebook

This year's keynote message will be provided by Patrick J. Murphy, the 32nd<sup>nd</sup> Undersecretary of the U.S. Army and America's first Iraq War Veteran elected to the U.S. Congress. Murphy will share a powerful message about the importance of paying tribute to our fallen soldiers and their families, as well as how we can all honor their legacy of service.



#### We (Heart) Veterans Pin Design Challenge Winners

Additionally, the two winners of the AEOP Veterans Appreciation Challenge (Pin Design), a national STEM contest for fourth through twelfth graders will be at the NVMM on Memorial Day. Asitai B., a 5th-grade student from Cary, North Carolina, and William R., a 12th-grade student from Utica, Kentucky, will be recognized and present their 3D-printed pins to Veterans visiting the NVMM. A joint effort of the Army Educational Outreach Program (AEOP) and Future Engineers through Battelle, the STEM contest gives students a chance to test their creativity and engineering skills to design a 3D pin that gives thanks to our U.S. military Veterans.



About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and sharing experiences of Veterans from all military branches throughout history. The National Veterans Memorial and Museum pays tribute to the sacrifices of men and women in service and their families. History is presented through a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multimedia presentations, and interactive exhibits. Together, these elements link our national story of service to the larger context of the world.

#### MEMORIAL DAY EVENTS ARE PRESENTED BY:













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