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The National Veterans Memorial and Museum and Mary Whyte Proudly Present A Virtual Tour of We The People: Portraits of Veterans in America

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – The <u>National Veterans Memorial and Museum</u> today debuted its first virtual tour in partnership with Mary Whyte, the artist who created the museum's special exhibition, *We The People:* Portraits of Veterans in America. The exhibition of 50 watercolor portraits of Veterans in their civilian lives opened at the museum in September 2020. To allow more people access to the exhibition, Whyte worked with the museum to create and host a virtual tour of her art as well as stories from the road.

"Thanks to Mary Whyte and our amazing team, we have reached another museum milestone -- our first virtual tour," said Lt. General Michael Ferriter, U.S. Army (Retired), President and CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. "We are excited to share this incredible Veteran art to connect, inspire and educate families -- wherever they may be – during the holidays and beyond."

The 24-minute virtual tour takes viewers through the powerfully moving exhibition located in the museum's Great Hall. As viewers experience Whyte's exquisitely detailed portraits, she shares how she decided to secretly embark upon what would become a seven-year journey across America to meet and paint a Veteran from each state. Experience for yourself, the search for inspiration and painting challenges that were part of her journey to honor all Veterans in a one-of-a-kind tribute.

Tickets for We The People: A Virtual Tour are available from December 23 – March 21, 2021, through the National Veterans Memorial and Museum website for \$7. Museum members can enjoy the tour as a member benefit. Each ticket is available to the viewer(s) for 72 hours after purchase and can be viewed multiple times during the three-day period.

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NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

Mary Whyte is an artist and author whose watercolor paintings have earned international recognition. Her works have been exhibited nationally as well as internationally. Whyte is the author of two books published by The University of South Carolina Press—"Working South: Paintings and Sketches by Mary Whyte" and "Down Bohicket Road: An Artist's Journey." Whyte is the recipient of the Portrait Society of America's Gold Medal and the Elizabeth O'Neill Verner Award.

Mary founded The Patriot Art Foundation, a 501 (c)(3) organization, dedicated to honoring Veterans who have served our country, celebrate their return to civilian life and assist them in the re-entry process. Utilizing visual arts as a medium, the organization is creating a better world for our Veterans and the public through initiatives in art, history, education, leadership and imagination. The Patriot Art Foundation is raising funds for the national museum tour and to secure future permanent location

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 currently presented virtually through our website, events, blogs and social content.

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