

MEDIA CONTACT:

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Mark Cooper: 614.427.1102

mcooper@nationalvmm.org

Columbus Navy Week Kicks Off Week of Activities at National Veterans Memorial and Museum

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM) will host the **Opening Ceremony for Columbus Navy Week, at 5 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 18**. Columbus Navy Week will bring 50 to 60 sailors to the city to engage with the community through a dynamic schedule of performances, educational outreach and community service projects. The event is free and open to the public.

Rear Admiral and Columbus, Ohio, native Matthew Pottenburgh will deliver remarks during the program, along with other local leaders and dignitaries. The U.S. Navy Band will perform. Following the ceremony, there will be a “meet-and-greet” opportunity with Navy personnel in attendance. The ceremony kicks off a week of Navy activities throughout the Greater Columbus community.

“Navy Week is about connecting our sailors with the communities we serve — showing who we are, what we do, and why it matters,” said Rear Adm. Pottenburgh, commander of Naval Service Training Command and senior executive for Navy Week. “The National Veterans Memorial and Museum will be at the center of that effort during Columbus Navy Week, hosting a kickoff celebration and proclamation, and an evening with the Blue Angels — dynamic events which, like the museum itself, bring service above self and Navy history to life. This week is especially meaningful as this is the Navy’s 250th anniversary!”

“We are honored and excited to officially kick off Columbus Navy Week at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. As a national institution, our mission is to honor all Veterans, elevate their stories and amplify the power of service - and we are able to achieve this through profound and prolific partnerships,” said Dr. Frederic Bertley, CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. “NVMM’s partnership with the Center of Science and Industry (COSI), a nationally leading science museum, has enabled us to organize the week’s activities and spotlight the importance of service, science and STEM careers throughout the spectrum of the U.S. Navy and underscore its continuum as a Veteran. This close collaboration between NVMM, COSI and the U.S. Navy will truly make this a special week for Columbus and Central Ohio”

On **Friday, Aug. 22**, personnel from the **Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC)** will staff two display tables from **noon to 7 p.m.** in the NVMM, showcasing their mission to collect, preserve, and share 250 years of U.S. Navy history. Museum visitors may explore publications from NHHC historians, learn about the Navy’s museums across the country, and view historic uniform pieces and artwork that bring Navy stories to life. This event is included with regular museum admission, with no advance registration required.

That same evening, **Friday, Aug. 22**, the NVMM will present “**An Evening with the U.S. Navy Blue Angels.**” The free event will take place on the **NVMM Rooftop at 7 p.m.** Museum doors will open at 5:30 p.m. allowing event ticketholders to enjoy complimentary after-hours museum admission. The Blue Angels will be the featured performers at the Columbus Air Show Aug. 22-24 at Rickenbacker International Airport. While tickets are free, registration is required to ensure adequate space. Tickets may be ordered here: <https://my.nationalvmm.org/aneveningwith/blueangels>

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels are the official flight demonstration squadron of the United States Navy, established in 1946, and are the second oldest formal aerobatic team in the world.

On **Saturday, Aug. 23**, NVMM staff will be at the [Columbus Air Show](#) all day, near the COSI and U.S. Navy displays. They will be offering family-friendly activities, including a “Make-Your-Own Flagpole” station, and the opportunity to write thank-you letters to Veterans. A mail drop-box will be available on site.

About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

[The National Veterans Memorial and Museum](#) seeks to honor all Veterans, elevate their stories, and amplify the power of service for everyone, everywhere. The 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, multi-media presentations, and interactive exhibits. Together, these elements link our national story of service to the larger context of the world. The NVMM is located at 300 W. Broad St., Columbus, Ohio 43215.