

NEWS RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Nov. 17, 2025

Mark Cooper: 614.427.1102

mcooper@nationalvmm.org

National Veterans Memorial and Museum Partners with Columbus Metropolitan Library in Service Initiative COSI, ServeOhio provide support for Service in action Nooks

COLUMBUS, Ohio -- The National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM) and Columbus Metropolitan Library (CML) have partnered to introduce the Service-in-Action Nook Initiative, a pilot project aimed at fostering community engagement and literacy through storytelling and service. The initiative launched on Monday, Nov. 17, 2025, at CML's Main Library in downtown Columbus.

Inspired by the lived experiences of U.S. military Veterans, the Service-in-Action Nook bridges storytelling and action, empowering participants to learn from Veterans' stories, reflect on the meaning of service, and take measurable steps that strengthen civic connection and community well-being. The dedicated space celebrates service in all its forms, from military to community action. This interactive area invites visitors of all ages to discover, create, and be inspired to make a difference. Guests can explore stories of Veterans and community changemakers, browse books with themes of service and Veterans, engage in hands-on learning activities, and write heartfelt thank-you letters to Veterans. The Nook will offer storyboards of Veteran narratives, hands-on educational materials from COSI, and guided prompts to lead participants through a service design challenge. ServeOhio's support will ensure that users are not only inspired but also guided toward action that has measurable community impact. For those ready to take the next step, the space features a *Step Up to Service Challenge Tracker*, helping visitors launch their own community service projects and share their impact.

Thanks to the generous support of the Nationwide Foundation, the initiative will begin with three Service-in-Action Nooks: one at CML's Main Library, 96 S. Grant St; one at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum at 300 W. Broad St.; and one that will move periodically between other CML locations.

"The mission of the NVMM is to honor all Veterans, elevate their stories, and amplify the power of service for everyone, everywhere," said Dr. Frederic Bertley, CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. "This groundbreaking collaboration between the NVMM and Columbus Metropolitan Library extends our mission into the community and leverages the Veteran experience to inspire others to explore how they can serve in their own way – through service to their school, their church, their community, or their country."

The Service-in-Action Nooks address a rising need for civic engagement and community connection in the post-pandemic era. Many communities are seeking new ways to re-engage their residents, especially youth, in purposeful action.

“This partnership is a powerful reminder that literacy and service go hand in hand,” said CML CEO Lauren Hagan. “Together, we honor the legacy of those who served through education, storytelling, and civic engagement. It’s more than a collaboration – it’s a shared commitment to building a more informed, compassionate, and connected society.”

The Nationwide Foundation’s support for the Service-in-Action Nook initiative focuses on two key areas of timely strategic impact: economic empowerment, and improving children’s wellbeing.

“Service is the foundation of strong communities, and we’re proud to help create spaces where stories spark action and every visitor is encouraged to step up and serve,” said Chad Jester, president of the Nationwide Foundation. “This initiative honors Veterans’ experiences while inspiring new generations to make a difference in their own communities.”

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.

About Columbus Metropolitan Library

[Columbus Metropolitan Library](#) has served the people of Franklin County, Ohio since 1873. With its Main Library and 22 branches, CML is well known for signature services and programs like School Help, Reading Buddies, Summer Reading Challenge and Ready for Kindergarten. The library’s Strategic Plan supports the vision of “a thriving community where wisdom prevails,” which positions CML to respond to areas of urgent need: kids unprepared for kindergarten, third grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, college and career readiness and employment resources.