

**NATIONAL  
VETERANS  
MEMORIAL  
AND MUSEUM**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**WHAT:** Three Ohio Veterans Charities Provide Funding to Support Complimentary Admission to Active Duty Military for Inaugural Year

**WHEN:** February 1, 2019 – December 31, 2019

**WHERE:** National Veterans Memorial and Museum  
300 W. Broad Street  
Columbus, OH 43215

The philanthropic arms of three Ohio veteran service organizations have joined forces to ensure that active duty military members have free admission at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. The Ohio Department of AMVETS Service Foundation, along with the American Legion Department of Ohio Charities and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ohio Charities, announced today that the organizations will fund the admission and parking costs for all active military visiting the National Veterans Memorial and Museum beginning Friday, February 1 through the end of 2019.

Since opening in October of 2018, active military have received a discounted rate on tickets to the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. The gift provided by three of Ohio's largest veteran charity organizations now allows all active military members to visit the memorial and museum free of cost during its inaugural year. Tickets for veterans are complimentary every day and are funded through additional partnerships.

"The National Veterans Memorial and Museum educates and pays tribute to the men and women of our country who have sacrificed so much in order to protect our freedom as citizens of the United States. As the philanthropic side of the nation's most inclusive veteran service organizations, we are honored to help ensure that even more members of the military are able to visit the National Veterans Memorial and Museum each and every day," said Merle Pratt, president for the Ohio Department of AMVETS Service Foundation.

"We thank the leaders of AMVETS, American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars for this generous gift to support active military and the National Veterans Memorial and Museum," said Lieutenant General Michael Ferriter, President/CEO for the museum. "I've seen firsthand the impact the stories of our veterans have on all who explore our museum and memorial. It is a moving experience and one that acknowledges the selfless service of our veterans and their families. We look forward to seeing the many active duty military members who have been given this awesome gift by their veteran brothers and sisters."

**MEDIA QUESTIONS:**

Rochelle Young | [rochelle@hinsonltd.com](mailto:rochelle@hinsonltd.com) | 614.416.7100 | c. 614.446.1830

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### **About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum**

With more than 20 million living veterans throughout the United States, from our Greatest Generation to our recent heroes coming home from Afghanistan and Iraq and all who served in peace and war, the time for America to remember and to honor its veterans is now.

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum is neither a war memorial nor a military branch-of-service museum. The museum takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and shared experiences of veterans throughout history. It pays tribute to the sacrifices of servicemen and women and their families. History is presented in a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multimedia presentations, and interactive exhibits. Together, these elements link our national story to the larger context of world events since our country's earliest days and demonstrate the importance of individuals in shaping our history.

While the opening of the museum in October of 2018 was the first step, future plans for an educational online curriculum and an interactive, virtual tour experience will be key priorities moving forward.

Please visit <https://www.nationalvmm.org/> to learn more about the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.