

NATIONAL  
VETERANS  
MEMORIAL  
AND MUSEUM

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**The National Veterans Memorial and Museum  
Proudly Presents  
*So Many Laughs: A Night of Comedy Inspired by Bob Hope***

**COLUMBUS, Ohio** (February 18, 2020) – A pair of military Veterans turned comedians and a Bob Hope impersonator will bring humor and inspiration to *So Many Laughs: A Night of Comedy Inspired by Bob Hope* at the [National Veterans Memorial and Museum](#) on Saturday, March 7 at 7 p.m. Doors will open early for 6 p.m. tours of the new Bob Hope exhibit which inspired the event.

“This will be an unforgettable evening at the National Veterans Memorial and Museum as comedians Thom Tran and Leslie Battle, both Veterans, join with Bob Hope impersonator, Bill Johnson, to share Hope’s legacy of laughter,” said Lt. Gen. Michael Ferriter, U.S. Army (Retired), President and CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.

Comedy night headliner, [Thom Tran](#), U.S. Army (Retired), is a Los Angeles-based comedian who became a standup comic after a combat injury ended his career as a soldier. He credits comedy for saving his life. Tran founded [The GIs of Comedy Tour](#), a Comedic Troupe of Troops that has toured the U.S. and internationally, bringing the healing power of laughter to both military and civilian audiences. He performs at the Laugh Factory and has appeared on “Black-ish,” “SEAL Team” and “NCIS: Los Angeles.” Tran also is one of 25 Veterans featured in the National Veterans Memorial and Museum’s permanent exhibit.

Warming up the stage for Tran will be fellow Veteran and comedian, [Leslie Battle](#), U.S. Army and National Guard (Retired). Battle began her Army career as an active duty medical laboratory technician then transferred to the Ohio National Guard while she earned her college degree. A mother of three young adults, her humor includes stories from her life as a soldier, mom and divorcee’ as well as observations about American pop culture.

Bob Hope will serve as guest master of ceremonies through the work of nationally recognized impersonator, [Bill Johnson](#). He has appeared in a wide variety of films and television shows including “Ocean’s 11,” “High Roller: The Stu Unger Story,” “Three Days to Vegas” and “CSI.” Johnson and his wife reside in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Ticket prices are \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. Pricing includes: Museum admission, refreshments, Bob Hope exhibit tour and the *So Many Laughs* comedy show.

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**About *So Ready for Laughter: The Legacy of Bob Hope* Exhibit**

Exploring Hope's major tours and travels during World War II, *So Ready for Laughter* features nearly 50 artifacts and includes an original 11-minute documentary produced by award-winning filmmaker, John Scheinfeld. Highlights include rare and unpublished photographs of Hope; wartime correspondence between Hope and servicemembers; WWII-era relics engraved to Hope; videos of his traveling, wartime troupe and Hollywood Victory Caravan programs and scrapbooks.

**About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum**

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum takes visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and shared 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 in a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multi-media presentations, and interactive exhibits. Together, these elements link our national story to the larger context of world

**NOTE:** Support for *So Many Laughs: A Night of Comedy Inspired by Bob Hope* was provided by the Greater Columbus Arts Council

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