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National Veterans Memorial and Museum to Debut New Exhibition on March 13

The Twenty-Year War: Our Next Greatest Generation

Tickets available for opening night on March 12 at 6 p.m.

(COLUMBUS, Ohio) – The [National Veterans Memorial and Museum](https://www.nationalveteransmuseum.org) today announced the debut of its new special exhibition, *The Twenty-Year War: Our Next Greatest Generation*, on view from March 13 – October 2, 2022. This exhibition is derived from “The Twenty-Year War,” a book that was officially launched at the museum during the 20-year anniversary of 9/11. Museum staff created this powerful, new exhibition in collaboration with the book producer/photographer, Beau Simmons, and authors, Dan Blakeley and Tom Amenta, both former U.S. Army Rangers.

[The Twenty-Year War exhibition](#) shares the diverse experiences of Veterans who served during our country’s longest war -- the Global War on Terror. Featuring Veteran portraits and their powerful, personal stories, this exhibition provides insights into this unprecedented era. *The Twenty-Year War* is being brought to museum and virtual guests through the support of the Greater Columbus Arts Council, NiSource and Rocky Brands.

“We created *The Twenty-Year War* exhibition to share the unvarnished stories of service and sacrifice from post-9/11 Veterans, in their own words, on their journey of transition to a new mission in their civilian lives,” said Dan Blakeley. “I hope everyone who sees and interacts with this work will reflect on their own lives and consider how they can support returning Veterans eager to serve their communities.”

The exhibition consists of 20 (40” x 32”) Veteran portraits and their stories featured in the museum’s special exhibition space with a QR code allowing guests to explore videos and podcasts that delve deeper into each Veteran’s story. Additionally, Veteran quotes will be incorporated on gallery walls, and a short film will provide an introduction from the exhibition creators.

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Opening night tickets for *The Twenty-Year War* on March 12 at 6 p.m. are available to the public for \$25 at: <https://my.nationalvmm.org/ttyw/opening>. Get tickets today to hear from photographer, Beau Simmons and authors, Dan Blakeley and Tom Amenta, both former U.S. Army Rangers.

Details will be forthcoming on a series of guest speakers and engaging events around the themes of physical and mental wellness, transition and opportunity and service through leadership to connect guests to one another and to the National Veterans Memorial and Museum through this exhibition. For those who cannot reach the museum, a virtual tour of *The Twenty-Year War* is being created to extend the exhibition's reach beyond the museum's walls.

"Veterans of the Global War on Terror may be asking themselves if their service mattered... It did and it does," said Lt. General Michael Ferriter, president and CEO, National Veterans Memorial and Museum. "Veterans of our country's longest war were an all-volunteer force, many of whom joined after 9/11, knowing they would deploy to combat. Now that they are transitioning, this exhibition is an opportunity to connect Veterans and civilians to facilitate an understanding of the skills and leadership Veterans bring to our communities."

Editor's Note: A Media Preview will be held on March 11 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. to preview the exhibition and speak to authors of The Twenty-Year War and the National Veterans Memorial and Museum.

Additionally, media are welcome to attend a VIP opening event at the museum on Saturday, March 12 from 6 – 9 p.m.

About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

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 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 world.

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