FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Heroes past and present honored at Living Heritage Museum

ATHENS, Tenn. (June 29, 2010)—Military heroes, along with their families and communities, are being remembered this Independence Day at the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum.

The "America the Free" exhibit showcases military uniforms and artifacts—including weapons, photographs, personal letters, and medals—from seven conflicts: the Civil War, Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, Korean War, Vietnam War, and Persian Gulf War.

Additionally, the Museum's main hall is home to several historic flags, including one from 1918 that flew at a local home every day during World War I and another that hung in a Meigs County schoolroom from 1891 to 1895.

"As we celebrate Independence Day, we invite the community to learn more about the local military heroes who served in conflicts across the globe," said Executive Director Diane Hutsell. "And throughout the summer, active military personnel and their families can enjoy free admission with a military-issued I.D."

Founded in 1982, the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum is a private, nonprofit organization housing more than 7,000 artifacts in 30 permanent exhibits that represent the culture and history of Southeast Tennessee from the 1700s to 1940s. The Museum also offers several changing exhibits as well as numerous special events and programs throughout the year and is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information or to make a donation, visit www.livingheritagemuseum.com.