

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Living Heritage Museum to participate in Blue Star Museums

Living Heritage Museum one of more than 600 museums to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer

ATHENS, Tenn. (May 25, 2010)—The McMinn County Living Heritage Museum will participate in the Blue Star Museums’ program offering free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day to Labor Day 2010.

Blue Star Museums is a partnership among Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts, and more than 600 museums across the country. Blue Star Families is a national, non-partisan, non-profit network of military families from all ranks and services including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect, and empower military families. The National Endowment for the Arts is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts—both new and established—bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education.

“America’s museums are proud to join the rest of the country in thanking our military personnel and their families for their service and sacrifice,” said National Endowment for the Arts Chariman Rocco Landesman. “I cannot imagine a better way to do that than welcoming them to explore and enjoy the extraordinary cultural heritage our museums present.”

“There have always been wonderful examples of partnerships between museums and military installations, but the scale of this gift from the museum community is thrilling,” said Blue Star Families Chairman Kathy Roth-Douquet. “Military families work hard for this country, and it is gratifying for us to be recognized for that.”

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Select museums from all 50 states and the District of Columbia are taking part in the initiative. Free admission is available to active duty military and five immediate family members.

“With two permanent military-themed exhibits, the Living Heritage Museum has a longstanding tradition of honoring the military service of our community members,” said Executive Director Diane Hutsell. “Offering free admission this summer is just one more way to thank these brave men and women, as well as their supportive families.”

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.

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