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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**EXPERT ON BLACK MILITARY HISTORY LECTURES AUGUST 3**

**Wheaton, Ill., July 19, 2016** — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park welcomes historian Anthony L. Powell on Wednesday, August 3. He will discuss the letters and ideas of Chaplain William S. Braddan, the only African-American officer from World War I who left a first-person record of his service in France.

The free program begins at 7:30 pm at the Cantigny Park Visitors Center and all are invited. Parking also is complimentary for this event.

The story of William Braddan is rich and fascinating. He was born in a troop wagon of the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry Regiment of the U.S. Army on the Texas frontier, his father being a sergeant with the regiment. At age 16 he enlisted with the regiment himself and eventually participated in the Great War as a member of 370<sup>th</sup> Infantry, the only unit commanded entirely by black officers. After his military service, Braddan relocated to Chicago, becoming the pastor of Berean Baptist Church and Chaplain for the 8<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard.

Powell, of San Jose, Calif., has devoted more than 30 years to studying, teaching, collecting and writing about the American Buffalo Soldier, the nickname first applied to 19<sup>th</sup>-century African-American enlisted men serving in the western United States. Powell curates “The Buffalo Soldier,” a national travelling exhibit, and lectures extensively on Black Military History at universities, colleges and museums.

Doors open at 6:30 pm on August 3. A cash bar will accompany a limited food menu. Coffee is complimentary.

This event is part of the First Division Museum’s *Date with History*, a monthly series featuring lively discussions with authors, panelists, historians and special guests. Information about upcoming programs is online at [FirstDivisionMuseum.org](http://FirstDivisionMuseum.org).

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**About the First Division Museum**

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, part of Robert R. McCormick Foundation, promotes public learning about America’s military heritage and affairs through the history of the “Big Red One”—the famed 1st Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. The museum’s main exhibit hall transports visitors to the trenches of World War I, the beaches of World War II, and the jungles of Vietnam. Outside, tanks are displayed from every era, along with artillery pieces and a personnel carrier. The Robert R. McCormick Research Center, open to the public, houses the museum’s library, archival, and photo collections. In

November 2016 the First Division Museum will begin a major redesign, reopening in August 2017 with new, updated exhibits highlighting the Division's activity since the Vietnam era. Visit the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park online at [FirstDivisionMuseum.org](http://FirstDivisionMuseum.org).