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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WORLD WAR I SPECIALIST JENNIFER KEENE TO SPEAK MARCH 25

Wheaton, Ill., March 11, 2015 — The First Division Museum invites the public to a free presentation by Dr. Jennifer D. Keene on Wednesday, March 25. She will discuss her book, “World War I: The American Soldier Experience,” beginning at 7:30 pm at Le Jardin inside the Cantigny Park Visitors Center.

“World War I” explores the lives of the men and women who served the United States in the Great War. Relying extensively on letters, diaries and reminiscences, Dr. Keene describes the soldier experience in detail, including the horrors of trench warfare on the ground in France. She also explains how soldiers coped with disease and wounds; the frequency of death around them; and the often difficult reentry into civilian life for those who returned home.

Dr. Keene is a professor of history and chairs the History Department at Chapman University in Orange, Calif. She holds bachelor and master degrees from George Washington University and earned her Ph.D. in History from Carnegie-Mellon University. Keene received the Wang-Franklin Professorship for 2007-9, the highest faculty award given by Chapman University, and has published three books about America’s involvement in World War I. She’s also the lead author for the textbook, “Visions of America: A History of the United States.”

Copies of “World War I: The American Soldier Experience” may be purchased in the Cantigny Shop the evening of March 25. Doors open at 6:30 pm. The program and parking are free.

From 6:30 to 7:30, a cash bar will be available along with pulled-pork sandwiches, chips and chili. 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.

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About the First Division Museum

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, Wheaton, Ill., is part of the nonprofit Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundation. It 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—and stands in tribute to all who have served our country in the armed forces. 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 personnel carriers and artillery. The Robert R. McCormick Research Center, open to the public, houses the museum's library, archival and photo collections. Visit the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park online at FirstDivisionMuseum.org.