



**News Release**

## **‘Women of West Point’ Author Donna McAleer to Speak on October 2**

**WHEATON, IL, September 23, 2013** — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park announces a free presentation by author Donna McAleer on Wednesday, October 2, at 7:30 pm.

McAleer will discuss “Porcelain on Steel: Women of West Point’s Long Gray Line.” Published in 2010, the book tells the story of the social evolution that has occurred for women attending the United States Military Academy.

West Point’s first female class enrolled in 1976 and graduated in 1980, becoming second lieutenants in the Army. “Porcelain on Steel” includes biographical sketches of women graduates who exhibited courage, strength and character in overcoming numerous obstacles, both in uniform and later in civilian careers.

The Military Writers Society of America awarded “Porcelain on Steel: Women of West Point’s Long Gray Line” the 2010 Gold Medal for nonfiction/military.

After graduating from West Point in 1987, McAleer served as an Army officer in a variety of leadership positions in Germany. She left the service in 1991 to earn an MBA at the University of Virginia, then entered a career in management consulting which continues today.

In 2000, McAleer left the corporate world and moved to Utah to pursue a lifelong dream of competing in the Winter Olympic Games in bobsled. She finished 4<sup>th</sup> in the 2002 Olympic Trials, missing the team by two spots. In 2012, McAleer sought election to the U.S. House, representing the 1<sup>st</sup> Congressional District of Utah but lost in the general election.

McAleer currently serves multiple roles including author, public speaker, business consultant and professional ski instructor. She resides in Summit County, Utah, with her family.

A book signing will follow McAleer’s presentation and copies of “Porcelain on Steel” will be available for purchase.

Doors open at 6:45 pm on October 2. Admission and parking are complimentary. For more information, please call 630.260.8130.

The event is part of the First Division Museum’s popular series, *A Date with History*. The monthly programs feature an evening of lively discussion with authors, panelists, historians and special speakers. 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 the nonprofit Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundations, promotes public learning about America's military heritage and affairs through the history of the "Big Red One"—the famed 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division of the U.S. Army. It 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](http://FirstDivisionMuseum.org).

**Media Contact:**

JD Kammes

First Division Museum at Cantigny Park

630.260.8187

[jkammes@FirstDivisionMuseum.org](mailto:jkammes@FirstDivisionMuseum.org)