



News Release

First Division Museum Receives Special Donation

Army spouse Starr Mortensen and her family travel from Colorado to deliver books she created about Iraq deployments

WHEATON, IL, March 19, 2012 – The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park received a special donation this month from Army wife Starr Mortensen, who donated a unique set of books she created documenting the history of the division’s Combat Aviation Brigade during their 2007 and 2010 deployments to Iraq.

The project began as Mortensen’s husband, Heath, went to Iraq in 2007 and 2010. During the first deployment she meticulously saved and documented all the news, information and photographs she could find about her husband’s battalion. During his second deployment, she did the same for its five sister battalions and for the brigade. For her work, she received the Dr. Mary E. Walker award on August 12, 2010. The honor is given to Army spouses who contribute significantly to the quality of life for soldiers.

“When my little girl is grown, I want her to know that her daddy was gone for a reason, not just that he was away,” Mortensen explained.

Mortensen, her husband and their daughter Arianna drove from Fort Carson, Colorado, to the First Division Museum in Wheaton to donate the set of books to the museum’s McCormick Research Center. The center, on the museum’s lower level, archives and provides information on general military history, the 1st Infantry Division and the legacy of Col. Robert R. McCormick.

The First Division Museum is extremely proud to have such a great piece of history about the current division and especially the Combat Aviation Brigade and its accomplishments in the museum’s permanent collection.

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About the First Division Museum

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundations, 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. 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.

Media Contact: Steve Hawkins, 630-260.8130 or SHawkins@FirstDivisionMuseum.org