



**News Release**

## **Veterans Benefit Fair at Cantigny Park on September 29**

**WHEATON, IL, September 18, 2012** — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park announces the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Veterans Benefit Fair on Saturday, September 29, starting at 9 am. The free all-day event, presented by Welcome Home All Veterans, will offer must-have information for all U.S. military veterans along with camaraderie and entertainment. Parking at Cantigny will be complimentary.

In recent years, veteran benefits and services have changed in many ways. Some veterans may not be fully aware of the wide range of benefits they have earned. The Veterans Benefit Fair will offer information and assistance to all veterans, serving as a valuable one-stop resource.

Veterans are encouraged to bring copies of their DD214 form or other relevant documents to have benefits instituted, upgraded or reviewed on the spot. Veterans Affairs representatives will be on site to answer questions and provide solutions.

In addition, the fair will include presentations by:

- Jan C. Scruggs  
Founder and President, Vietnam Veterans Memorial  
Topic: Creation of the Memorial in Washington, D.C., dedicated in 1982, and current efforts to build an Education Center at The Wall. The Vietnam Traveling Wall (“The Wall That Heals”) will be on site at the fair.
- Marcea A. Weiss  
Author of *Leaving the Military*  
Topic: “Top 5 Steps to Prepare for Corporate America”
- Joan Ryan  
Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs  
Topics: The GI Bill, state benefits and Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP).
- Illinois Department of Employment and the American Legion Department of Illinois  
Topics: Translating military skills to civilian skills, tips for successful interviews and creating an effective resume.

Former Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tammy Duckworth will speak at a brief closing ceremony beginning at 6 pm.

During the day, 17 colleges and universities will offer information on veteran benefits in their academic programs, and more than 20 veteran assistance organizations will have informational displays.

The Robert R. McCormick Foundation's Freedom Express will be parked outside the Cantigny Visitors Center and open for self-guided tours. The 400-square-foot mobile museum tells the story of our First Amendment freedoms through compelling interactive exhibits. Illinois residents can also register to vote at the museum.

Musical guests the Del Souls, Bobby Dunne Band, Vinyl Covers and Patt Holt Singers will provide entertainment. Complimentary food for veterans will be available through generous donations by Corner Bakery, Maggiano's Little Italy and Miller Brewing.

More information about the Veterans Benefit Fair is available online at [FirstDivisionMuseum.org](http://FirstDivisionMuseum.org). The site includes an hour-by-hour agenda of scheduled activities.

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### **About the First Division Museum**

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, part of the nonprofit 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).

### **About Welcome Home All Veterans**

Villa Park VFW Post #2801, a 501(c) non-profit organization, in conjunction with the Elmhurst Elks Lodge #1531, local municipalities, and other VFWs and organizations, make up the organization Welcome Home All Veterans. The organization's main mission is to hold an annual event to say "THANK YOU" to ALL military veterans, from all eras and wars, and to provide veterans with a place to resubmit or apply for benefits. The organization was established to generate financial support for the annual veteran's event and seeks contributions to assist in their campaign.

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