

**Media Contact:**  
Gayln Piper  
First Division Museum  
630.260.8130  
[gpiper@fdmuseum.org](mailto:gpiper@fdmuseum.org)

## Chicago's "Fighting Eighth"

*Program will highlight historic African-American combat unit from World War I*

**Wheaton, Ill., April 18, 2018** — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park welcomes Hari Jones, historian and curator at Chicago's DuSable Museum of African American History, on Wednesday, May 2. He will lead a discussion titled "Clearing a Path for Democracy: Citizens Soldiers of the Fighting Eighth in World War I."

The free program inside the Cantigny Visitors Center begins at 7 pm. Parking also is complimentary.

Organized as an all-volunteer regiment in 1898 for service during the Spanish American War, the 8th Infantry Illinois National Guard later fought in World War I as the 370<sup>th</sup> United States Infantry. Nicknamed the Fighting Eighth, it was one of the few African-American combat units to serve in the Great War and the only one commanded entirely by black officers. Its motto was "One Country, One Flag."

Sources for Jones' presentation include letters, reports and books written by the citizen soldiers who served in the regiment, which proudly hailed from the Bronzeville neighborhood in Chicago. A [documentary](#) about the historic regiment, renowned for its valor, recently aired on PBS television. The [Victory Monument](#) stands in the regiment's honor at 35<sup>th</sup> and King Drive in Chicago.

Doors open at 6:30 pm on May 2. A cash bar and limited food menu will be available. Coffee is complimentary.

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

###

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

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, fully renovated in 2017 and 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. Visit the museum online at [fdmuseum.org](http://fdmuseum.org).