



**News Release**

## **Armed Forces Day at Cantigny Park on Saturday, May 18**

*Patriotic activities planned; free parking and admission all day*

**WHEATON, IL, May 6, 2013** — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park invites families to celebrate Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 18, from 10 am to 4 pm.

Hands-on activities for kids will include dressing like a soldier and an interactive presentation by “A Zoo to You,” a mobile petting zoo that plans to highlight animals encountered by soldiers around the world.

Throughout the day, in the First Division Museum lobby, visitors of all ages can write thank you letters to soldiers and veterans. They’ll also have an opportunity to fold a small American flag and send it with a note to a soldier who is deployed overseas.

Also in the lobby, visitors can see a World War II-era dog tag machine in action. Personalized tags are available for \$6 each or two for \$10.

At 2 pm, a small ceremony to commission Mitchell R. Whitney into the United States Marine Corps will take place in the First Division Museum courtyard. All are invited.

Armed Forces Day is one of four “patriotic holidays” celebrated at Cantigny. On these occasions, the park is pleased to offer free parking to all guests.

The First Division Museum will open at 10 am on Armed Forces Day and close at 5 pm. As always, admission to the museum is free. More information, including volunteer opportunities, is available online at [FirstDivisionMuseum.org](http://FirstDivisionMuseum.org) or call 630.260.8187.

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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).

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