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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUTHOR MARY LOUISE ROBERTS ON DECEMBER 3

Wheaton, Ill., November 19, 2015 — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park invites the public to a presentation by author Mary Louise Roberts on Thursday, December 3. She will discuss “What Soldiers Do: Sex and the American GI in World War II France.”

The program begins at 7:30 pm at Le Jardin inside the Cantigny Park Visitors Center. Admission and parking are free.

In her book, Roberts, a history professor at the University of Wisconsin, reveals an aspect of WWII not commonly mentioned. Drawing on a wide range of sources, including news reports, propaganda and training materials, official planning documents, wartime diaries and memoirs, she tells the fascinating and troubling story of how the U.S. Army motivated troops by dangling the mythical promise of sex with beautiful and willing French women. In addition, Roberts suggests, rampant sexual predation and the casual response to it by American military leadership caused serious friction between the two nations during a critical point in history.

While not denying the achievement of D-Day, or the bravery of the soldiers who helped liberate France, “What Soldiers Do” reveals a human side of WWII including the real lives and real mistakes of the people who lived it.

Copies of “What Soldiers Do” may be purchased in the Cantigny Shop the evening of December 3. A book signing will follow the lecture.

Doors open at 6:30 pm. Prior to the program, a cash bar and limited food menu will be available. Coffee is complimentary.

These events are part of the First Division Museum’s *Date with History*, a monthly series featuring lively discussions with authors, panelists, historians and special guests. Information about upcoming programs is online at FirstDivisionMuseum.org.

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About the First Division Museum

The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park, 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. 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.