



**News Release**

## **Veterans Benefit Event at Cantigny Park on Sept. 28**

**WHEATON, IL, September 19, 2013** — The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park announces the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Benefit Event on Saturday, Sept. 28, starting at 9 am. The free all-day event, presented in partnership with Welcome Home All Veterans, will offer valuable information for U.S. military veterans along with camaraderie and entertainment. Admission and parking at Cantigny are 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, including retirement and medical. The Veterans Benefit Event 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.

During the day, colleges and universities will offer information on veteran benefits in their academic programs, and various veteran assistance organizations will have informational displays and answer questions.

Veteran groups at Cantigny will include: Veterans Assistance Commission of DuPage, Dignity Memorial, DAV, VITAS, Easter Seals Community OneSource, Oak Park Vet Center, Hines VA, Carrington Mortgage, The Veterans Practice LTD, DuPage Veterans Center, Mobile Vet counseling center, Rolling Thunder and the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The Patt Holt Singers, Bobby Dunne, Glenbard East Madrigal Singers and the ML2 Band will entertain the crowd throughout the day.

The Veterans Benefit Event Opening Ceremony will begin at 9:30 am. A vintage war plane flyover will take place around 12:30 pm.

Veterans will enjoy free food and drink thanks to donations from multiple local restaurants and suppliers. Veterans must register at the main tent to receive a wristband.

Also during the event, 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.

More information about the Veterans Benefit Event, including a schedule of events, is available online at [welcomehomeallveterans.org](http://welcomehomeallveterans.org) or call 630.474.4037.

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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 every era and war, 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. For more information, visit [welcomehomeallveterans.org](http://welcomehomeallveterans.org).

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