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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VETERANS DAY AT CANTIGNY PARK

*Luminary tribute and “Reflections Framed” celebration highlight November 11 activities;
Final chance to visit First Division Museum before it closes for renovation;
Free admission and parking all day*

Wheaton, Ill., October 27, 2016 — The [First Division Museum at Cantigny Park](#) will commemorate Veterans Day with an evening tribute to those who served and sacrificed for our country’s freedom.

At sunset on Friday, November 11, the park will light approximately 2,000 luminary candles, placed on the Cantigny Parade Field and along walkways. Admission and parking are complimentary throughout the day.

“The lights honor more than 13,000 1st Infantry Division soldiers killed in action since 1917,” said Paul Herbert, executive director of the First Division Museum. “By extension, we are honoring all who have made that sacrifice and all of our veterans who have risked that sacrifice. Freedom is not free.”

Visitors may walk through the rows of lights or observe the display from three sides on a designated driving route. The tribute will take place regardless of weather conditions, concluding at 9 pm.

Inside the Cantigny Visitors Center, beginning at 5 pm, all are invited to [Reflections Framed](#), a celebration benefiting the [Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans](#) in Wheaton. The project, in its third year, involves collecting and preserving military service stories from around the community. The stories, photographs and audio interviews, which together make up the Reflections, will be presented to the participating veterans and their families on Veterans Day in a beautiful custom frame (courtesy of DuPage Framing Center). The Reflections will also be digitally archived by the Wheaton Public Library so they last for generations to come. Wheaton College ROTC cadets will present the framed Reflections at the event and the Wheaton College Men’s Glee Club will perform. More than 50 veterans, living or deceased will be recognized.

The First Division Museum will remain open until 9 pm on Veterans Day—its last day of operation in 2016. As previously announced, the museum is embarking on a major redesign and renovation project with a grand reopening planned for late summer 2017.

Complimentary tram service will be offered between the museum and the Cantigny Visitors Center. In addition, the Cantigny Shop and Bertie's Café will be open throughout the evening. Veterans are invited to enjoy a complimentary cup of coffee at Bertie's.

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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. 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 artillery pieces and a personnel carrier. The Robert R. McCormick Research Center, open to the public, houses the museum's library, archival, and photo collections. In November 2016 the First Division Museum will begin a major redesign, reopening in 2017 (late summer) with new, updated exhibits highlighting the Division's activity since the Vietnam era. Visit the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park online at FirstDivisionMuseum.org.

About Cantigny Park

Cantigny Park, part of the Robert R. McCormick Foundations, is the 500-acre Wheaton estate of Col. Robert R. McCormick (1880-1955). It is home to the McCormick Museum, First Division Museum, formal gardens, picnic grounds, walking trails, and a Visitor Center with banquet and dining facilities. More information, including hours, directions, and upcoming events, can be found online at www.cantigny.org. Cantigny Golf, adjacent to the park, features a 27-hole championship golf course, clubhouse with banquet and dining rooms, Cantigny Golf Academy, and the 9-hole Cantigny Youth Links. For more information, please visit www.cantignygolf.com.