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## **First Division Museum at Cantigny Park Hosts Gilder Lehrman Institute for Teachers on the Vietnam War**

*Three dozen high school teachers from around the country gain in-depth perspectives  
from leading scholars on America's participation in the war*

**Wheaton, Ill., July 18, 2018** – The First Division Museum at Cantigny Park in Wheaton is serving as the classroom this week for 36 social studies and history teachers, all participating in the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History Teacher seminar focusing on the Vietnam War. The training lands in a year recognizing the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of one of the largest battles of the entire war, the Tet Offensive.

Sessions throughout the week will explore the origins, course, and impact of America's involvement in Vietnam, emphasizing the evolution of US diplomacy, the formulation of military strategy, the domestic impact of the war, and the perspective of Vietnamese revolutionaries. Wednesday evening, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division veterans from Vietnam will participate in a dinner panel discussion. Participants are teachers from both high schools and middle schools from around the country.

Professor of History from Vassar College, Robert K. Brigham, serves as the lead scholar with Gilder Lehrman's Senior Education Fellow, Ronald Nash, serving as the master teacher. Leadership from the First Division Museum, including Paul Herbert, executive director, and Bill Brewster, collections curator, will also present at the 5-day seminar.

“Central to our mission at the First Division Museum is the responsibility to excite, enlighten, and educate teachers, students and other groups about America's military history,” said Paul Herbert. “Hosting the Gilder Lehrman seminar is just one illustration of our work to bring best-in-class training opportunities that will benefit not only these teacher participants but thousands of students in the years to come.”

Founded in 1994 by Richard Gilder and Lewis E. Lehrman, visionaries and lifelong supporters of American history education, Gilder Lehrman is the leading American history nonprofit organization dedicated to K–12 education while also serving the general public. The Institute's mission is to promote the knowledge and understanding of American history through educational programs and resources.

“These seminars can be the highlight of a teacher's professional development,” offered Ronald Nash. “For this event in particular, it gives them an opportunity not only an opportunity to

experience the First Division Museum, but a chance to participate in conversations about enhancing student engagement through history, specifically the Vietnam War.”

*NOTE: The invitation-only training series began Sunday, July 15, and continues through Friday, July 20. Interviews with lecturers, First Division museum leadership, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division veterans, and seminar participants are available by contacting Cantigny Park Communications.*

### **About the First Division Museum at Cantigny Park**

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. It stands in tribute to all who have served our country in the armed forces. The Robert R. McCormick Research Center, open to the public, houses the museum’s library, archival and photo collections. Visit the museum online at [fdmuseum.org](http://fdmuseum.org)

### **About Cantigny Park**

Cantigny Park, part of the Chicago-based Robert R. McCormick Foundation, is the 500-acre Wheaton estate of Robert R. McCormick (1880-1955), long-time editor and publisher of the Chicago Tribune. It is home to the McCormick House, First Division Museum, formal gardens, picnic grounds, walking trails and a Visitors Center with banquet and dining facilities. More information, including hours, directions and upcoming events is online at [cantigny.org](http://cantigny.org).

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