

ADD ONE/ART OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER OPENING

To celebrate the opening of the exhibition, visitors are invited to enjoy special weekend events from Friday, September 24 through Sunday, September 26, 2010, as the Center's Grand Hall Lobby is transformed into a 1940s USO canteen, featuring World War II era décor, music, dancing, and photo opportunities. The USO's singing troupe, the Liberty Bells, will perform period favorites and patriotic music, including a medley of military songs. Guests can learn about the experiences of American soldiers during different time periods during the special interactive program *In the Army Now*, as well as participate in an *Army Protocol Workshop* that teaches military etiquette, including the proper way to salute and wear a uniform. Children are invited make World War II era crafts, such as model airplanes, playing cards, and victory gardens, to learn about the different ways children helped the war effort from the home front. The Center will also pay tribute to the work of the United Services Organization, which has a proud history of serving our nation's Armed Forces.

On Sunday, September 26 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., veterans, active military personnel, and career military retirees are invited to an exclusive viewing of the *Art of the American Soldier* exhibition before the Center opens to the public.

In honor of our nation's service men and women, admission will be FREE for veterans during opening weekend.

Army Art Program History

The U.S. Army's art program began during World War I, and continued through World War II, resulting in the creation of over 2,000 pieces of art. In 1945, the Army established its Historical Division, with responsibilities including the preservation of these works. The collection also includes artwork by artists who were sent to document the

Vietnam War, as well as works from soldier-artists who are currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. For a complete history of the Army's art program, visit

www.constitutioncenter.org/ncc_press_Art_of_the_American_Soldier.aspx.

-MORE-

ADD TWO/ART OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER OPENING

Despite its impressive collection, the Army is the only United States armed service without a national museum. The Army Historical Foundation, in partnership with the U.S. Army, is currently spearheading a campaign to create the National Museum of the United States Army.

“This highly important collection, never before on public exhibit, portrays the spirit of America’s sons and daughters who have answered the call to defend our Nation,” said Colonel (ret) Robert J. Dalessandro, Assistant Chief of Military History, Center of Military History.

Exhibition Details

Covering over 6,000 square feet and featuring more than 200 works of art in a variety of mediums, the exhibition celebrates the creative spirit of the American soldier and unveils unforgettable images that offer intimate, first-hand insight into the soldier experience. The artwork, spanning from World War I to the present, is organized into five sections – Introduction, A Soldier’s Life, A Soldier’s Duty, A Soldier’s Sacrifice, and The American Soldier – and captures the everyday lives of American soldiers, from deployment and camp life to the battlefield, telling their stories in a way no newsreel or photograph ever could.

In 1919, World War I soldier-artist J. Andre Smith said, “When a war poses for its picture, it leaves to the artist the selection of the attitude in which the artist may desire to draw it. And this attitude is the artist’s point of view circumscribed by the boundaries of his ability and the nature of the work for which his training and practice have fitted him.”

In conjunction with the exhibition, the National Constitution Center has also launched a special online gallery at www.constitutioncenter.org/artoftheamericansoldier, where veterans from all branches of the Armed Forces can submit artwork that reflects their time of service. Selected works from the online gallery will be displayed on a monitor inside the *Art of the American Soldier* exhibition.

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ADD THREE/ART OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER OPENING

Visitors will also have the opportunity to show their appreciation for our nation's servicemen and women at a letter writing station at the end of the exhibition. Postcards will be provided to guests and mailed to the troops, courtesy of the Letters for Lyrics program. Visitors who mail a postcard will receive a free *Breaking Southern Ground* cd, an exclusive compilation featuring Southern Ground Artists Zac Brown Band, Sonia Leigh, Nic Cowan, and Levi Lowrey. The Letters for Lyrics program was launched in May by Ram Trucks, Zac Brown Band, and Soldiers' Angels with a goal of sending one million letters to support U.S. troops stationed across the world.

In addition to connecting with the soldier experience through compelling works of art, visitors will have the opportunity to hear oral histories of our nation's service men and women during a special iPod audio tour. The *Art of the American Soldier* iPod tour has been generously underwritten by Team Clean, Inc.

Admission to *Art of the American Soldier* is FREE with regular museum admission of \$12 for adults, \$11 for seniors ages 65 and over, and \$8 for children ages 4-12. Veterans and military families will receive \$2 off admission. Active military personnel, career military retirees, and children ages 3 and under are free. Group rates are also available. iPod audio tours cost an additional \$5. For ticket information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.

Special Programming

To further augment the exhibition, the Center's public programming staff in the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach is developing a variety of programs and activities for students, teachers, and families, including exhibition guides, gallery talks, interactive workshops, and online lesson plans. A series of special events is also planned.

In addition, the Center will feature a special theatrical experience inside the *Art of the American Soldier* exhibition. *Through Their Eyes*, a moving and thought provoking theater piece, will tell the story of a young soldier who is drafted into the Vietnam War.

-MORE-

ADD FOUR/ART OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER OPENING

By joining the combat art team, he serves his country by telling the stories of his fellow soldiers through his artwork. Visitors can witness *Through Their Eyes* twice an hour every Wednesday through Saturday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., and between 12:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. on Sundays.

Exhibition Partners & Sponsors

The National Constitution Center has partnered with the USO of Pennsylvania & Southern New Jersey and the Greater Philadelphia Tourism Marketing Corporation, which runs www.visitphilly.com, for additional support of the exhibition. Historic Philadelphia, where the Army, Navy, and Marines were first established, is proud to offer a show-your-military ID-and-save discount program, through the end of the year. Savings at 35+ attractions, restaurants, and shops can be found at www.visitphilly.com/military.

The Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company and The Coca-Cola Company are the presenting local sponsors for the *Art of the American Soldier* exhibition at the National Constitution Center. The Philadelphia Coca-Cola Bottling Company is the 4th largest Coca-Cola Bottler in the U.S., employing over 1200 people. It is one of the largest beverage distribution facilities in the U.S. and is a leader in manufacturing, selling, and distribution of soft drinks. Philly Coke (as most commonly referred) corporate offices are located in Northeast Philadelphia and serve a consumer base with over 6 million people across a territory that spans parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

The Coca-Cola Company is the world's largest beverage company. Along with Coca-Cola, recognized as the world's most valuable brand, the Company markets four of the world's top five soft drink brands, including Diet Coke, Fanta, and Sprite, and a wide range of other beverages, including diet and light soft drinks, waters, juices and juice drinks, teas, coffees, energy and sports drinks. Through the world's largest beverage distribution system, consumers in more than 200 countries enjoy the Company's

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ADD FIVE/ART OF THE AMERICAN SOLDIER OPENING

beverages at a rate exceeding 1.6 billion servings each day. For more information about The Coca-Cola Company, please visit our website at www.thecoca-colacompany.com.

Official media partners of *Art of the American Soldier* are CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV), *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, and The Big Talker 1210AM WPHT. CBS 3 (KYW-TV) and The CW Philly 57 (WPSG-TV) are part of CBS Television Stations, a division of CBS Corporation.

Army art is furnished courtesy of the Department of the Army, Center of Military History. Sponsorship of this exhibition does not constitute an endorsement by the Department of the Army of the sponsor's products or services.

About the U.S. Army Center of Military History

The U.S Army Center of Military History is responsible for the appropriate use of history throughout the United States Army. Traditionally, this mission has meant recording the official history of the Army in both peace and war, while advising the Army Staff on historical matters. The Center spearheads the Army's historical efforts providing historical support to the Army, contributing essential background information for decision making, staff actions, command information programs, and public statements by Army officials. Over the decades it also has progressively expanded its role in the vital areas of military history education, the management of the Army's museum system. The Center's work with Army schools ensures that the study of history is a significant part of the training of officers and noncommissioned officers. It also supports the use of history to foster unit pride and give today's soldiers an understanding of the Army's past. The Center thus provides to all levels of the Army, as well as other services, government agencies, and the public, with a growing awareness of history that goes well beyond publications. For additional information, visit the Center of Military History website at www.history.army.mil.

About the National Constitution Center

The National Constitution Center, located at 525 Arch St. on Philadelphia's Independence Mall, is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing public understanding of the U.S. Constitution and the ideas and values it represents. The Center serves as a museum, an education center, and a forum for debate on constitutional issues. The museum dramatically tells the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, sculpture and artifacts, and features a powerful, award-winning theatrical performance, "Freedom Rising." The Center also houses the Annenberg Center for Education and Outreach, which serves as the hub for national constitutional education. Also, as a nonpartisan forum for constitutional discourse, the Center presents – without endorsement – programs that contain diverse viewpoints on a broad range of issues. For more information, call 215.409.6700 or visit www.constitutioncenter.org.