

IOWA GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM

Public Relations and Media Committee
Camp Dodge Joint Maneuver Training Center
7105 NW 70th Ave, Johnston IA 50131 ★ 515-252-4582

For Immediate Release

JOHNSTON, IA
MARCH 21, 2017
10:10 A.M.

WWI 100TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 31 AND APRIL 1

K-12 STUDENTS, EDUCATORS, INVITED TO WWI EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM, FRIDAY, MARCH 31

PUBLIC INVITED TO APRIL 1 COMMEMORATION EVENTS

Educational program for Students and Educators-Friday, March 31

History and social studies students and teachers, from kindergarten through 12th grade, are invited to participate in a uniquely-tailored educational program about World War I at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum, 7105 NW 70th Ave., in Johnston, Iowa, on Friday, March 31, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Educators: each class rotation lasts for one hour-please contact the museum at 515-252-4531 to schedule your one-hour slot-please ask for either Mike Vogt or Mike Musel. Each one-hour slot is limited to 40 students. There is no cost for this event.

This program honors the centennial of the United States entry into World War I. WWI began with the assassination of Austrian Archduke Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, in Sarajevo, on July 28, 1914. While the U.S. was initially a neutral state, continuing German attacks on American vessels in the Atlantic Ocean led President Woodrow Wilson to declare war on Germany on April 6, 1917.

Educational sessions and presentations include:

- Discuss the training and service of World War I Soldiers, with historians dressed in authentic WWI military uniforms and equipment;
- Experience conditions in a WWI trench;
- Learn about WWI infantry tactics with a scale-model trench diorama;
- View a captured German field cannon brought to Camp Dodge as a souvenir;
- See the only U.S. Army M1918 Liberty Standard cargo truck on exhibit in Iowa, which is one of only two original Liberty trucks in existence believed to still be operational; and
- Experience many other artifacts, which help tell the story of the 114,000 Iowans who served their nation during WWI.

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Public program-Saturday, April 1

The museum is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 1 and admission is always free. Visitors may enjoy the galleries and small arms room at their leisure. The formal program on April 1 will run from 10:20 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Here is the program schedule:

- 10:20 – Welcome and introductions
- 10:30 – Tom Clegg, living historian/re-enactor: “The Common Soldier in WWI”
- 11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m., Mike Vogt, Iowa Gold Star Military Museum curator, presentation: “Camp Dodge during WWI”
- 12:30 – 1:15 p.m., author/historian Darrek Orwig, presentation on Cpl. Francis Webster. Webster, trained as an illustrator under Des Moines Register political cartoonist Jay “Ding” Darling, captured the daily life of Iowans serving overseas in WWI with the Iowa National Guard. Webster was killed in action during the war.
- 1:30 – 2:15 p.m., Greg VanWyngarden presentation: “James Norman Hall: An Iowan serving under three flags.” Born in Colfax, Iowa, Hall served in the British Army during World War I, then became a pilot for France's flying force, Lafayette Escadrille. Taken prisoner by Germany and later honored as a war hero, Hall wrote “Mutiny on the Bounty,” “Men Against the Sea,” and “Pitcairn Island.”

More than 114,000 Iowans served in the U.S. armed forces during WWI, including 3,576 Iowans who died during the war from battle wounds, injuries, and illness. Camp Dodge became the organizational location and training site for the U.S. Army's 88th Infantry Division during WWI, one of 16 cantonment sites nationally. More than 111,000 Soldiers were inducted and trained at Camp Dodge during the war.

Seventeen National Guard divisions, including the 42nd Division, were assigned to the American Expeditionary Force during WWI. The 42nd Division was comprised of Soldiers from many states, including the Iowa National Guard's 168th Infantry Regiment from southwest Iowa. The 168th Infantry was commanded by Col. Ernest Bennett and later, by Col. Matthew Tinley. During U.S. participation in WWI, the 42nd Division was credited with 164 days of actual combat. While 42nd Division casualties included 2,810 killed and 11,873 wounded, the 168th Infantry suffered more than 700 Soldiers killed and 3,100 wounded.

For more information about these commemorative events, contact Mike Musel or Mike Vogt at 515-252-4531.

Established in 1985, the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum is the only federally-recognized repository for military artifacts in the state of Iowa. The mission of the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum is twofold: to preserve Iowa's military history and honor the military service of all Iowans.

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The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum's permanent exhibits tell the stories of Iowans who have served in defense of their state and nation, beginning in the early settlement of the state in the 1840s, through the Global War on Terror. An extensive exhibit honors the 34th Infantry Division ("Red Bull" Division), which holds the distinction of serving the most continuous days in combat of any division in the European Theater of Operation during World War II. The museum also contains one of the finest military small arms collections in the Midwest. Additionally, an exhibit detailing the history of the Iowa State Patrol is also on display.

The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum is located on Camp Dodge, 7105 NW 70th Avenue, Johnston, Iowa. Admission is free. Museum hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please use the NW 70th Ave. entrance, which is open 24 hours a day. Photo identification is required for adults to gain admittance to Camp Dodge (a driver's license is acceptable).

Note: For all motorcyclists entering Camp Dodge, drivers and passengers must wear the following Personal Protective Equipment: helmet with full face shield or eye protection/goggles, gloves, long-sleeve shirt or jacket, long pants, boots and a reflective vest or belt.

Group tours are welcome and guided tours are available by appointment. For additional information or questions about IGSM, contact the museum at 515-252-4531 or visit the museum website at www.goldstarmuseum.iowa.gov or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/HonoringIowaVeterans/.

For questions concerning this release, please contact Col. Greg Hapgood, Chair - Public Relations and Media Committee by email at gregory.o.hapgood.mil@mail.mil or 515-252-4582 (office) or 515-971-6385 (cell), or Master Sgt. Duff McFadden at duff.e.mcfadden.mil@mail.mil or 515-252-4666 (office).

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