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May 26, 2011

VETERANS MEMORIAL AIR PARK TO PARTICIPATE IN BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

The Veterans Memorial Air Park is one of more than 1,300 museums across America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer

FORT WORTH, TEXAS – May 26, 2011 - Today The Veterans Memorial Air Park announced the launch of Blue Star Museums, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and more than 1,300 museums across America to offer free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2011. Leadership support has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. The complete list of participating museums is available at www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

The Veterans Memorial air Park, Forward Air Controller's and the B-36 Peacemaker Museums will officially launch the program on June 8th with the start of our new summer hours. From June 8th until Labor Day, we will be open Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 6 pm and on Sundays from 12 noon to 6 pm. We will also be showing full-length movies every Wednesday at 4 pm in our Ready Room. The movies are free with a paid admission. Details will be on our web site soon.

"Blue Star Museums may be the program at the NEA of which I am proudest," said NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman. "Blue Star Museums recognizes and thanks our military families for all they are doing for our country, and simultaneously begins young people on a path to becoming life-long museum goers."

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“Last year the success of the inaugural year of the Blue Star Museums program showed that partnerships between the nation’s museum and military communities are a natural,” said Blue Star Families Chairman Kathy Roth-Douquet. “We are thrilled that 300,000 military family members visited our partner museums in the summer of 2010. We hope to exceed that number this year as the military community takes advantage of the rich cultural heritage they defend and protect every day. We appreciate the NEA and the nation’s museums who chose to partner with us.”

This year, more than 1,324 (and counting) museums in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa are taking part in the initiative, including more than 500 new museums this year. This year’s Blue Star Museums represent not just fine arts museums, but also science museums, history museums, nature centers, and 70 children’s museums.

About Blue Star Museums

Blue Star Museums runs from Memorial Day, May 30, 2011 through to Labor Day, September 5, 2011. The free admission program is available to active-duty military and their immediate family members (military ID holder and five immediate family members). Active duty military include Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and active duty National Guard and active duty Reserve members. To find out which museums are participating, visit www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums. The site includes a list of participating museums and a map to help with visit planning.

This is the latest NEA program to bring quality arts programs to the military, veterans, and their families.

The Veterans Memorial Air Park is located at 3300 Ross Avenue, Fort Worth, TX 76106.

Call (800) 575-0535 for details.

Admission is \$5 for adults, \$1 for children 6 to 16 years of age and \$10 for families.

The Veterans Memorial Air Park, Forward Air Controller’s Museum and B-36 Peacemaker Museum are dedicated to the preservation of our local aviation heritage and inspiring the youth of our community to careers in aviation and education. We are also members of the North Texas Aviation Centennial committee, a collaboration of the Veterans Memorial Air Park, the B-36 Peacemaker Museum and the Fort Worth Air & Space Museum Foundation. Through our collective efforts we are striving to create awareness in our community to the rich aviation history that has developed here for 100 years. Visit our web site for more information about our yearlong celebration activities.

www.FTWAviation100.com

www.FACMuseum.org

www.ov-10bronco.net

www.B-36PeacemakerMuseum.org

www.FWASM.org

