



THE MERCER AND FONTHILL MUSEUMS TO PARTICIPATE IN BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

The Mercer and Fonthill are one of more than 700 museums to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer

Doylestown, PA (June 16, 2010) –The Mercer and Fonthill Museums announced the launch of Blue Star Museums, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and more than 700 museums across America to offer free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families through Labor Day 2010. Families can visit www.mercermuseum.org for museum hours. The complete list of participating Blue Star Museums is available at www.arts.gov.

According to Douglas Dolan, Executive Director of the Mercer and Fonthill Museums, “We are pleased to support the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families with this wonderful initiative.”

“America’s museums are proud to join the rest of the country in thanking our military personnel and their families for their service and sacrifice,” said National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Rocco Landesman. “I cannot imagine a better way to do that than welcoming them in to explore and enjoy the extraordinary cultural heritage our museums present. The works on view this summer will inspire and challenge viewers, and sometimes they will just be a great deal of fun.”

“There have always been wonderful examples of partnerships between museums and military installations, but the scale of this gift from the museum communities to military families is thrilling,” said Blue Star Families Chairman Kathy Roth-Douquet. “Military families work hard for this country, and it is gratifying for us to be recognized for that. We anticipate that thousands of military families will participate in the program and visit museums this summer – many of them for the first time.

More than 700 museums in all 50 states and the District of Columbia are taking part in the initiative.

About Blue Star Museums

Blue Star Museums runs until Labor Day, September 6, 2010. The free admission program is available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention Common Access Card (CAC), a DD Form 1173, or a DD Form 1173-1, which includes active duty military and five immediate family members, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Reserve. Some special or limited-time museum exhibits may not be included in this free admission program. For questions on particular exhibits or museums, please contact the museum directly. 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.

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About Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families is a national, non-partisan, non-profit network of military families from all ranks and services including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect and empower military families. In addition to morale and empowerment programs, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life with civilian community and leaders. Membership includes spouses, kids, parents, service members, veterans and civilians. Operation Appreciation is an initiative of Blue Star Families that seeks to connect military families to the larger community. For more information, please visit www.BlueStarFam.org.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

The NEA is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts – both new and established – bringing the arts to all Americans, and providing leadership in arts education. Established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government, the Arts Endowment is the largest annual national funder of the arts, bringing great art to all 50 states, including rural areas, inner cities, and military bases. For more information, please visit www.arts.gov.

About the Mercer and Fonthill Museums

The Mercer and Fonthill Museums are premier tourist attractions in Bucks County. The Mercer Museum offers visitors a unique window into pre-Industrial America as seen through the implements used in everyday life. The Museum's collection includes more than 40,000 objects of 60 different crafts and trades. The museum is located at 84 South Pine Street in Doylestown and is open for self-guided exploration 7 days a week. www.mercermuseum.org

Fonthill, Henry Mercer's concrete castle home boasts 44 rooms and 18 fireplaces. The interior walls, floors and ceilings are elaborately adorned with an incredible array of Mercer's original handcrafted tiles. The museum is open daily for guided tours only and is located on Route 313 & East Court Street in Doylestown. www.fonthillmuseum.org

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