

PRESS RELEASE

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THE NATIONAL
CIVIL WAR
M U S E U M

IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



Honored Veterans: Fraternal Organizations Borne of the Civil War at the NCWM

(Harrisburg, PA) – The National Civil War Museum invites the local community and area visitors to see the Museum’s newest changing exhibit *free of charge*, on Saturday, June 17, 2017 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. *HONORED VETERANS: Fraternal Organizations of the Civil War* will tell the story of all Civil War Veterans, North and South, Men and Women, Black and White. During the war soldiers developed friendships and a sense of camaraderie that was as strong as their dedication to their cause. When the war ended the weary veterans looked forward to going home, but soon after leaving the service, many realized that something was missing. The bonds that they had forged with their brothers in arms remained strong in their memories. By 1866 veterans began to re-establish their wartime friendships in the form of fraternal organizations. These groups would allow them to maintain their connection to those with whom they had served over four long years and to remember the honored dead left on the field of battle. In time The Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans would become the largest of these organizations among many others. Veterans would use the power of their numbers to lobby for widows and orphans and for veterans rights and pensions, becoming a political force to be reckoned with in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Their numbers began to diminish over the years as veterans answered their last roll call, and the organizations were passed to their sons to keep their memory alive for future generations.

Opening day for the ‘Honored Veterans: Fraternal organizations Borne of the Civil War’ exhibit will be June 17, 2017, during our Museum Free day, featuring guest speaker Dr. Barbara Gannon speaking on integrated Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.) posts, 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM. The exhibit will remain open until June 1, 2018.

For a complete listing of events and schedule updates at the Museum, please visit the Museum website:

www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org or call 717.260.1861.

About The National Civil War Museum

Opened in February 2001, The National Civil War Museum, a member of the Smithsonian Institution Affiliations Program, is a non-profit private educational institution dedicated solely to the American Civil War. It is one of the largest museums in the world which interprets the entire American Civil War from a military and civilian perspective. The Museum preserves and exhibits some of the nation's treasures, including General Robert E. Lee's personal Bible, and more than 24,000 artifacts, documents and photos. Admission to the Museum is \$12.00 for adults, \$11.00 for seniors, and \$10.00 for students with reduced rates for children and families. The Museum offers complimentary ample parking. For more information, please call 717.260.1861, or visit the Museum’s website at www.nationalcivilwarmuseum.org. **Connect with us!** [Facebook.com/TheNationalCivilWarMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/TheNationalCivilWarMuseum); [Twitter.com/NCWM](https://twitter.com/NCWM); and [FourSquare.com/NationalCivilWarMuseum](https://www.foursquare.com/NationalCivilWarMuseum)

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