

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
FEB. 1, 2012

IOWA GOLD STAR MILITARY MUSEUM TO HOST 'UNCONDITIONAL LOYALTY: THE MILITARY SERVICE OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS' EXHIBIT

In celebration of February's Black History Month, the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum will host a traveling exhibit from the African-American Museum of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, entitled "Unconditional Loyalty: The Military Service of African-Americans."

This display showcases Iowa's African-American military heroes and heroines, from the Revolutionary War to today, with special emphasis on: the 60th U.S. Colored Troops; the Buffalo Soldiers; African-American women in the military; Iowa's World War I training installations at Camp Dodge and Fort Des Moines; and Iowa's Tuskegee Airmen.

The exhibit features artifacts, images, and documents which tell the stories of African-American servicemen and women from the Boston Massacre in 1770 to the selection of General Colin Powell as America's highest-ranking military officer in 1989. It examines the conditions faced by Iowa's African-American Civil War recruits, as well as the war and peacetime experiences of the first U.S. Army African-American officers, who trained at Fort Des Moines in 1917. It also recounts the bravery and patriotism of African-American heroes, like Medal of Honor recipients James Gardiner (Civil War) and Vernon Baker (World War II). The exhibit honors all African-Americans who have served our nation.

"Unconditional Loyalty: The Military Service of African Americans" will be on display at the Iowa Gold Star Military Museum from Jan. 30 until Feb. 18.

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 honor the military service of all Iowa veterans, and preserve Iowa's military history.

The Iowa Gold Star Military Museum is located on Camp Dodge, 7105 NW 70th Avenue, Johnston, Iowa. Admission is free to the public. Museum hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday. Please

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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). Group tours are welcome and available by appointment. For additional information or questions about the IGSM, contact the museum at (515) 252-4531 or visit the museum website at www.iowanationalguard.com/Museum/Museum.htm

For questions concerning this release, please contact Col. Greg Hapgood, Chair, Public Relations and Media Committee, by email at gregory.hapgood@us.army.mil or (515) 252-4582 (office) or (515) 971-6385 (cell), or 1st Lt. Brandon Cochran at brandon.w.cochran@us.army.mil or (515) 252-4518 (office).

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