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NEWS RELEASE

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RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA PARTICIPATES IN FIFTH ANNUAL BLUE STAR MUSEUMS

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is one of more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer, in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families and the Department of Defense

Strasburg, Lancaster County, PA — The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania announces the launch of Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2014.

“Although the Blue Star Museums program is active from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2014, the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania actually offers free admission to active duty service personnel year-round,” says Museum director Charles Fox. “The staff and Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania sincerely appreciate and thank military families for their service.”

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is home to a world-class collection of more than 100 historic locomotive and railroad cars — a number of which are open for visitors to explore — an immersive education center, a working restoration shop, a vast library and archives and a museum store. Special events are held throughout the year.

The Blue Star Museums free admission program is available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), a DD form 1173 ID card (dependent ID) or a DD form 1173-1 ID card, which includes active duty U. S. military — Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve, U. S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps and NOAA Commissioned Corps — and up to five family members. Some special or limited time museum exhibits or events may not be included in this free admission program.

“As we kick off our fifth year of Blue Star Museums, more museums than ever are part of this military appreciation program,” says NEA acting chairman Joan Shigekawa. “Together with Blue Star Families and more than 2,000 museums, we are proud to help connect military families with the cultural resources in their communities.”

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(2) RAILROAD MUSEUM OF PENNSYLVANIA PARTICIPATES
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“Blue Star Museums has grown into a nationally recognized program that service members and their families look forward to each year,” says Blue Star Families chief executive office Kathy Roth-Douquet. “It helps bring our local military and civilian communities together, and offers families fun and enriching activities in their home towns.”

This year’s Blue Star Museums are represented by fine arts, science, history, nature and children’s museums in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and American Samoa. Leadership support has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. The complete list of participating museums is available at www.arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums.

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, with the active support of the Friends of the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. Visit www.rrmuseumpa.org or call (717)687-8628.

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About Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families is a national, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, dedicated to supporting, connecting and empowering military families. For more information, go to www.bluestarfam.org.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government and supports artistic excellence, creativity and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. For more information, go to www.arts.gov.

About the Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania

The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania — home to a world-class collection of more than 100 historic locomotive and railroad cars, an immersive education center, a vast library and archives and a working restoration shop — is dedicated to education and the preservation of railroad heritage. For more information, go to www.rrmuseumpa.org.

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