

NEWS RELEASE

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**MILITARY HISTORY TRAIL OFFERS NEW WAY TO
EXPERIENCE MEMORIAL DAY**

Trail Connects 6 Sites of Military Significance in Pennsylvania

Harrisburg, PA –While many Americans spend Memorial Day weekend at picnics or swimming pools, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is encouraging visitors to celebrate and relive the military history of Pennsylvania in a new way.

PHMC’s Military History Trail connects six historical sites as part of a comprehensive tour of the forts, battlefields, museums and training grounds that interpret key moments in the history of our nation’s armed forces.

“Pennsylvania’s Military History Trail offers visitors a chance to remember the events and people that shaped our nation’s military history and to walk in the steps of our country’s heroes and hear about their stories,” said Barbara Franco, PHMC executive director.

Several of the sites are planning special events for Memorial Day, including the Pennsylvania Military Museum in Boalsburg, the national birthplace of Memorial Day. The six sites along the Military History Trail (from west to east) include:

— **Erie Maritime Museum, Homeport of the U.S. Brig *Niagara***, Erie: Climb aboard the reconstructed warship, the U.S. Brig *Niagara*, which carried Oliver Hazard Perry to victory in the Battle of Lake Erie on Sept. 10, 1813. The bay-front museum features hands-on exhibits, a one-of-a-kind “live fire” exhibit, a dockside amphitheater and spectacular views of Presque Isle Bay. The museum will celebrate its 10th anniversary on May 24 with hands-on activities, living history demonstrations, and live music from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. Holiday weekend hours: Monday and Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday: 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. For more information: www.brign Niagara.org; (814) 452-2744. (*Drive time from Erie Maritime Museum to Fort Pitt Museum is 2.25 hours.*)

— **Fort Pitt Museum**, Pittsburgh: This unique museum is a recreated 18th-century bastion located in Point State Park. Often called the Gateway to the West, the site recalls the conflict between England and France for control of North America and depicts the history of the French Fort Duquesne, English Fort Pitt and the early formation of Pittsburgh through dioramas, exhibits and period objects. Holiday weekend hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information: www.fortpittmuseum.com; (412) 281-9285. (*Drive time from Fort Pitt Museum to Bushy Run Battlefield is 45 minutes.*)

— **Bushy Run Battlefield**, Harrison City: Pennsylvania’s only recognized Native-American battlefield, this site marks the 1763 British victory of Col. Bouquet over a force of Native American warriors, a victory that opened the western frontier for European settlement. Holiday weekend hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. For more information: www.bushyrunbattlefield.com; (724) 527-5584. (*Drive time from Bushy Run Battlefield to Pennsylvania Military Museum is 2.5 hours.*)

— **Pennsylvania Military Museum**, in “the Birthplace of Memorial Day,” Boalsburg: Honoring Pennsylvania’s citizen soldiers, this museum is appropriately located in Boalsburg, the national birthplace of Memorial Day. Exhibits include uniforms, equipment, weapons and memorabilia, and the surrounding 67-acre park features the 28th Infantry Division Shrine, military vehicles and artillery. Special programming includes the Union and Confederate military units encampment along the Boalsburg Pike next to the Military Museum on May 26 from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Museum holiday weekend hours: Saturday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday: 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. For more information: www.pamilmuseum.org; (814) 466-6263. (*Drive time from Pennsylvania Military Museum to Brandywine Battlefield Park is 3 hours.*)

— **Brandywine Battlefield Park**, Chadds Ford: Follow in the footsteps of George Washington at Brandywine Battlefield, honoring the biggest single-day battle in the Revolutionary War. Two preserved Quaker farm houses are also located on the grounds. Holiday weekend hours: Saturday and Monday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday: 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. For more information: www.ushistory.org/brandywine; (610) 459-3342. (*Drive time from Brandywine Battlefield Park to Washington Crossing Historic Park is 1.5 hours.*)

— **Washington Crossing Historic Park**, Washington Crossing: View the site where Washington’s army crossed the Delaware River on Christmas Night, 1776. This 500-acre park includes 13 historic buildings, the village of Taylorsville and the McConkey’s Ferry Inn. A memorial service will be held at 10 a.m. on May 26 at the soldiers’ graves behind the Thompson-Neely House. Holiday weekend hours: Saturday and Monday: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sunday: 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. For more information: www.ushistory.org/washingtoncrossing; (215) 493-4076.

For more information about these sites and PHMC’s Trails of History, visit www.phmc.state.pa.us.

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission is the official history agency of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania.