



For Immediate Release

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PORTSMOUTH MUSEUMS TO PARTICIPATE IN NINTH ANNUAL *BLUE STAR MUSEUMS*

The Portsmouth Museums are one of more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer.

The Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center, the Portsmouth Colored Community Library Museum, and the Lightship *PORTSMOUTH* Museum recently announced their participation in the ninth annual 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 the nation's active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day. A list of participating museums nationwide is available at arts.gov/blue-star-museums.

About Blue Star Museums

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America. The program runs from the Saturday of Memorial Day weekend, May 26, 2018 through Labor Day, September 3, 2018.

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States – Military - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as Active Duty and Reservists, National Guardsman (regardless of status), U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Qualified members must show a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

About The Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center

The Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center, housed in the 1846 Courthouse, is devoted to offering quality educational, cultural and aesthetic experiences in the arts through rotating visual art exhibits, lectures,

classes and performances. It is located at 400 High Street, Portsmouth, VA 23704. For more information call 757-393-8543 or visit www.portsmouthartcenter.com

About The Portsmouth Colored Community Library Museum

The Portsmouth Colored Community Library Museum, a nationally recognized historical site, welcomes anyone interested in learning how a small community library enriched Portsmouth, Virginia from 1945 to 1963. Celebrating Portsmouth African American History, the Museum's exhibitions include photographs and memorabilia, as well as African American books and journals from the former library. It is located at 904 Elm Avenue, Portsmouth, VA 23704.

For more information call 757-393-8591 or visit www.portsvaafricanamericanheritage.com

About The Lightship *Portsmouth* Museum

The Lightship *Portsmouth* Museum tells the story of those who served in the Lightship Service, their dedication to life aboard the vessel and service to the navigation of mariners through preservation, educational programs and exhibition of the lightship. It is located at the foot of London & Water Streets, Portsmouth, VA 23704. For more information call 757-393-8591 or visit www.portsmouthnavalshipyardmuseum.com

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