



MEADOWS MUSEUM CELEBRATES MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND WITH FREE ADMISSION FROM MAY 22 TO MAY 24

Museum Also Announces Yearlong Free Admission for Military Members and Police and Fire Personnel and their Families

DALLAS (SMU) (May 20, 2015) – In celebration of its 50th anniversary, the Meadows Museum has announced it is offering free admission during a special Memorial Day weekend celebration. All museum goers will be admitted free Friday, May 22 to Sunday May 24 during regular museum hours, which are 10 to 5 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Officials also announced the Meadows Museum's participation in 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, including National Guard and Reserve, and their families.

The national promotion runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2015; the Meadows Museum will honor this offer year-round. Leadership support has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. The program also provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation's cultural heritage and learn more about their new communities after a military move. The complete list of participating museums is available at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

The 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, NOAA Commissioned Corps - and up to five family members.

The Meadows Museum is also extending the free admission program to all police and fire department personnel and their families, through December 31, 2015. Participants must show an official department-issued I.D. card.

"Providing free admission is a way of thanking members of the military and police and fire departments and their families for the many sacrifices they make," said Mark A. Roglán, the Linda P. and William A. Custard Director of the Meadows Museum and Centennial Chair in the Meadows School of the Arts. "We hope the Blue Star program will create a connection between the Meadows Museum and these families that will continue to grow for a long time."

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About the Meadows Museum

The Meadows Museum is the leading U.S. institution focused on the study and presentation of the art of Spain. In 1962, Dallas businessman and philanthropist Algur H. Meadows donated his private collection of Spanish paintings, as well as funds to start a museum, to Southern Methodist University. The Museum opened to the public in 1965, marking the first step in fulfilling Meadows' vision to create a "Prado on the Prairie." Today, the Meadows is home to one of the largest and most comprehensive collections of Spanish art outside of Spain. The collection spans from the 10th to the 21st century and includes medieval objects, Renaissance and Baroque sculptures, and major paintings by Golden Age and modern masters. Since 2010 the Museum has been engaged in a multidimensional partnership with the Prado, which has included the exchange of scholarship, exhibitions, works of art, and other resources. The Meadows Museum is celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 2015 with a series of special exhibitions and programs. Visit <http://www.meadowsmuseumdallas.org> for more information.

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 Memorial Day, May 25, 2015 through Labor Day, September 7, 2015.

To find participating museums and plan your trip, visit arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

All summer long, Blue Star Museums will share stories through social media. Follow Blue Star Museums on [@Twitter@NEAarts](https://twitter.com/NEAarts) and [@BlueStarFamily](https://twitter.com/BlueStarFamily), #bluestarmuseums, on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/bluestarmuseums), and read the [NEA Art Works blog](#) for weekly stories on participating museums and exhibits.

This is the latest NEA program to bring quality arts programs to the military, veterans, and their families. Other NEA programs for the military have included the NEA/Walter Reed Healing Arts Partnership; Great American Voices Military Base Tour; and Shakespeare in American Communities Military Base Tour.

About Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families (BSF) is a national, nonprofit network by and for military families from all ranks and services, including active duty, National Guard and reserves. As the largest and fastest growing military family engagement organization in the country, Blue Star Families forges extraordinary partnerships resulting in 1.5 million military family members served annually through programs and resources with 50 chapters at home and overseas. BSF has also activated more than 26 million hours of community service to build leaders within and strengthen the military community, and connected Americans with their military. To learn more about Blue Star Families' opportunities for service members, military families, and civilians, visit 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. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$5 billion to strengthen the creative capacity of our communities by providing all Americans with diverse opportunities for arts participation. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector. To join the discussion on how art works, visit the NEA at arts.gov.

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