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Mitchell Museum of the American Indian Offers Free Admission to Military Families from Memorial Day to Labor Day

-Among more than 2,000 Participating Blue Star Museums-

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, May 20, 2015– Mitchell Museum of the American Indian is proud to announce, for a fifth year, its participation in the Blue Star Museum program that offers free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families. Valid military identification admits up to five family members to view all the museum exhibits for free as well as participation in the kids craft program each weekend. The program starts on Memorial Day (Monday, May 25, 2015) and runs through Labor Day (Monday, September 7, 2015.)

The Blue Star Museum program functions in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency that funds arts programs, the Department of Defense, and Blue Star Families, a non-profit organization that provides support and advocacy for military personnel and their families. Mitchell Museum of the American Indian is one of over 2,000 museums participating in this endeavor.

“American Indians represent the largest participation in the military per capita by any minority group,” says Kathleen McDonald, Executive Director of Mitchell Museum of the American Indian. “The Mitchell Museum wishes to honor their service and their family’s sacrifices with our continued participation in the Blue Star Museum program.”

All active duty military personnel, including the National Guard and Reserve forces, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, and NOAA Commissioned Corps are invited to visit any of the Blue Star Museums over the course of the summer. The complete list of participating museums is available at arts.gov/national.blue-star-museums.

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2/2-Blue Star Museums

“Blue Star Museums has grown into a nationally recognized program that service members and their families look forward to each year,” said Blue Star Families Chief Executive Officer Kathy Roth-Douquet. “It helps bring our local military and civilian communities together, and offers families fun and enriching activities in their home towns. We are thrilled with the continued growth of the program and the unparalleled opportunities it offers.”

Blue Star Museums is an effort to improve the quality of life for active duty military families, especially focusing on the approximately 1 million children who have had at least one parent deployed. Blue Star Museums was created to show support for military families who have faced multiple deployments and the challenges of reintegration. The program offers these families a chance to visit museums this summer when many will have limited resources and limited time to be together.

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian is one of only a handful of museums in the country that focuses exclusively on the art, history and culture of American Indian and First Nation peoples throughout the United States and Canada. In 2012, the Mitchell Museum was named “Best Museum of The North Shore: Up and Comer” by *Make it Better* magazine, won the Superior award by the Illinois Association of Museums and was named a national finalist by the American Association of State and Local History award program.

For more information about Mitchell Museum of The American Indian, visit www.mitchellmuseum.org or call 847-475-1030. The museum is open Tuesday-Wednesday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday- Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors, students and children and Free for Mitchell Museum members and Tribal members.

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