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PRESS RELEASE

BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS INSTITUTE TO PARTICIPATE IN BLUE STAR MUSEUMS PROGRAM IN 2018

***BCRI is one of more than 2,000 museums across America to
offer free admission to active duty military personnel and their families this summer***

May 16, 2018 - Birmingham, AL --The Birmingham Civil Rights Institute (BCRI) announced that it will again participate in Blue Star Museums program to offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel, including National Guard and Reserve and their families, starting Memorial Day on *Monday, May 28 through Labor Day on Monday, September 3, 2018*. Blue Star Museums is a collaboration between the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America. The program 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/national/blue-star-museums.

"BCRI has enthusiastically participated in the Blue Stars Museum program since 2013," stated BCRI President and CEO Andrea L. Taylor. "We're honored to offer complimentary access to our active duty military personnel and their families this summer. We are grateful for their service and we anticipate even greater interest in the Institute as part of the [Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument](#).

"As many military families spend the summer months moving from one duty station to another, or reconnecting with a parent who has returned from deployment, Blue Star Museums helps service members and their families create memories," said Blue Star Families Chief Executive Officer Kathy Roth-Douquet. "Blue Star Families has great appreciation for the generosity of the museums across the country who roll out the red carpet for the families who serve alongside their service members. We are thrilled with the continued growth of the program and the unparalleled opportunities it offers."

The free admission program is available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), a DD Form 1173 ID card, or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card, which includes active duty U.S. military—Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, National Guard and Reserve, as well as members of the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps—and up to five family members.

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About Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families is a national, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, dedicated to supporting, connecting and empowering military families. With our partners, Blue Star Families hosts a robust array of morale and empowerment programs, including Books on Bases, Blue Star Museums, Operation Honor Corps, Blue Star Careers and Operation Appreciation.

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 \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. The NEA extends its work through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector.

About BCRI

BCRI is an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, and part of the Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, is a cultural and educational research center that promotes a comprehensive understanding for the significance of civil rights developments in Birmingham. Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2017, BCRI reaches more than 150,000 individuals each year through teacher education (including curriculum development and teacher training), group tours, outreach programs (school and community), award-winning after-school and public programs, exhibitions and extensive archival collections.