



Press Release

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Kevin Olson, (651) 212-0573 Anna Long, (612) 636-4108
kevin@snowglobepr.com anna@snowglobepr.com

Bonding Bill Provides Funding for New Military Museum and Library *\$13 Million in construction funding will honor military members and veterans*

SAINT PAUL, Minn. – This week the Minnesota State Legislature passed a \$1.9 billion bonding bill, which included \$13 million for a new 40,000 square-foot Minnesota Military Museum and Library in Little Falls. The facility is expected to open in spring of 2023.

“This new museum will be a focal point for the Minnesotans who have served in all branches of the armed forces,” said Randal Dietrich, Executive Director of the Museum. “The bipartisan support in both the house and senate was crafted with the leadership of local district Rep. Ron Kresha, House Veterans and Military Affairs Finance and Policy Division Committee Chair Rep. Rob Ecklund and committee member Rep. Bob Dettmer.”

The current museum is located on a 5-acre site at Camp Ripley in a building that is nearly 90 years old. Because of the small square footage in the current location, nearly 80,000 artifacts are stored in various locations. The new 32-acre site, at the intersection of Highways 371 and 115, will dramatically increase exposure and accessibility to Minnesota’s military history, while continuing the Museum’s long-term collaboration with Camp Ripley.

“The Military Museum has been an exceptional steward of veterans stories for more than 40 years,” said Mark Ritchie, Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the U.S. Army and Board Chair of the Minnesota Military Museum. “The time has come to dramatically increase public access to this very special collection.”

A \$3 million donation from the KAHR Foundation laid the groundwork for the project to begin. Another \$5 million is needed to fully outfit the facility with tools and technology that will showcase the stories of our military members and veterans.

“Ultimately, the quality and character of the museum’s education classrooms, exhibit galleries and public programming rests with companies, foundations, veteran organizations, and everyday Minnesotans who see the value of investing in a future that is as bright as our past,” continued Dietrich. “The names of these future donors, or donations made in memory of others, will be prominently displayed upon entry into the new facility.”

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA: You are invited to speak in person (socially distanced) or virtually, with Museum Executive Director Randal Dietrich. To coordinate, contact Kevin Olson kevin@snowglobepr.com 651-212-0573 or Anna Long anna@snowglobepr.com / (612) 636-4108. For more information visit www.mnmilitarymuseum.org Fact sheet attached to this release.

MORE INFORMATION/ PHOTOS/VIDEO: www.mnmilitarymuseum.org Fact sheet attached to this release.

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