

SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED: MUSEUMS AND THE MILITARY

Prepared by the New England Museum Association, 2017

Museums in New England and across the country serve the military community, both active and retired, in a number of ways. The following are a handful of examples of programs, exhibits, and initiatives led by museums, and supported by private and public investment, including grants from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, National Endowment for the Arts, National Endowment for the Humanities, and state funding.

Vets Free @ 38 New England Museums on Nov. 11, 2016

20 Maine Vets' stories recorded so far on MaineMemory.net

5 +years of free field trips to the Science Discovery Museum, MA for 4th and 5th grade students from Hanscom Air Force base

Participating Blue Star Museums offer free admission to active military & their families

Memorial Day - Labor Day

2016 Exhibits Featuring Veterans' Perspectives

- Mobile Museum of Black Artifacts, RI
- Maine Historical Society Hill-Stead Museum, CT
- New England Ski Museum, NH
- Vermont Historical Society
- Rockwell Museum, MA and more!

Map showing participating Blue Star Museums by state: ME (21), VT (16), NH (101), CT (28), RI (11), MA (56).

Providing Access

Over 230 museums across New England participate in the Blue Star Museums program, providing free admission to museums to active military and their families every summer (May-September).

<https://goo.gl/bLS69x>

Subsidized field trips to museums like The Discovery Museums in Acton, MA, bring students from schools at local military bases for hands-on experiential workshops in science and math.

In its 2016 pilot year, the NEMA Veterans' Day Program featured 38 New England museums across all 6 states offering free admission and special programming for veterans on November 11.

Improving Quality of Life

Museums like the ICA/Boston work with artists and veterans to express their perspectives through art. Museums offer art therapy programs, specialized tours, and studio workshops for veterans dealing with PTSD and related trauma issues.

Preserving Stories

Oral history projects, like "My Maine Stories" through the Maine Historical Society, preserve and share the perspectives of veterans which then lead to exhibits like *Veteran's Voices* and concurrent programming.

<https://goo.gl/VElyll>

Museums tell lesser-known stories of veterans' effects on American culture through exhibits like the New England Ski Museum's *The Mountain Troops and Mountain Culture in Postwar America*, featuring the 10th Mountain Division.