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The Marine Corps Heritage Center Story

Legacy

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THE MISSION OF THE MARINE CORPS HERITAGE CENTER IS TO CREATE A PLACE WHERE ALL MARINES, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, AND ESPECIALLY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, CAN COME TO VIEW THE HISTORY OF OUR GREAT NATION THROUGH THE EYES OF MARINES.



Interior detail of the National Museum's Central Gallery shows viewing platforms that evoke the bridge decks of an amphibious assault ship.

COUNTDOWN TO GRAND OPENING BEGINS: DEDICATION SCHEDULED FOR 10 NOVEMBER 2006

Grand Opening celebrations for the National Museum of the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Heritage Center are now less than one year away, according to a special announcement from the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation issued on November 10, 2005.

In the announcement, Foundation president, LtGen Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret), stated: "We are proud to notify our many supporters and stakeholders that the formal dedication of the National Museum of the Marine Corps will occur on 10 November 2006—the 231st anniversary of our Corps. 2006 will truly be our pivotal year, and the months ahead are critical to our success. We ask for your continued support to help ensure the successful creation and public opening of the National Museum and Heritage Center."

The Foundation also provided early details of a series of celebratory events scheduled for November 9-12, 2006:

- **Thursday, November 9:** A black-tie evening reception for invited guests will be held at the National Museum.
- **Friday, November 10:** The traditional wreath-laying at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, will be followed by the official dedication of the National Museum at Quantico. Some 30,000 guests will be invited to this ceremony. Invitees will view the new Museum at the conclusion of the dedication.
- **Saturday, November 11:** Veterans Day. The day's events will open with a two-hour ceremony recognizing Marine fraternal groups, associations and veterans, following which participants will view the Museum. A candlelight ceremony will be held in the evening.
- **Sunday, November 12:** The National Museum will open to the general public.

Specific details regarding invitations, tickets, hotel reservations, transportation and

Continued on page 2

KRESGE FOUNDATION PROVIDES \$500,000 "CHALLENGE" GRANT

The Kresge Foundation recently announced that it will provide a \$500,000 challenge grant to help complete construction of the National Museum of the Marine Corps. The Kresge Foundation is an independent, private foundation created by the personal gifts of Sebastian S. Kresge. It is considered a philanthropic leader in the private foundation field.

John E. Marshall, III, President and CEO of The Kresge Foundation, indicated "In this cycle of grantmaking, our Trustees were pleased to support a range of organizations reflecting almost the entire breadth of the nonprofit sector. This diverse group is responding to the new challenges presented in their communities or sustaining activities that have demonstrated their effectiveness."

Challenge grants from The Kresge Foundation are made toward projects involving construction or renovation of facilities and the purchase of major capital equipment or real estate. Grant recipients must have raised initial funds toward their respective projects before requesting assistance from The Kresge Foundation. Grants are then made on a challenge basis, requiring the raising of the remaining funds, thereby insuring completion of the projects. Thus, final disbursement of the Kresge grant is contingent on the successful completion of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation's capital drive by July 2006.

Project supporters are advised that all contributions made from the present time through June 30, 2006, will count toward achievement of the Kresge challenge. Special year-end mailings from the Foundation will provide more details and *Legacy* readers are urged to respond to ensure that the challenge is met.

"We are honored to be the recipient of this grant and grateful for the generosity and support of The Kresge Foundation," said Lt. Gen. Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret), president of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. "This grant will help us complete the National Museum of the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Heritage Center, a true national treasure that will tell America's proud history through the eyes of Marines."

www.marineheritage.org

703-640-7965

NATIONAL MUSEUM'S FIRST DIRECTOR SELECTED

Lin Ezell has been selected as the first Director of the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Ezell comes to the National Museum from the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum, where she led the team that designed and built the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center adjacent to Dulles Airport in Virginia. As Program Manager, she was instrumental in cultivating support, ensuring the new facility met the needs of the museum and raising awareness of the project.



"We warmly welcome Ms. Ezell to the project," said LtGen Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret), president of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. "We expect to benefit greatly from her strong experience as a museum professional, especially as we head toward Grand Opening on 10 November 2006."

Ezell was selected following a national search. She has more than 20 years' experience in the museum environment, starting as a historian for the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum in 1984 with expertise in manned spaceflight. Ezell was subsequently appointed assistant director for collections management, program manager for the

Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, and, most recently, executive officer for development of the National Air and Space Museum.

Ezell is credited with helping make the Udvar-Hazy Center a premier destination for tourists in the Washington, D.C., region. The center, which opened December 2003, houses a large collection of aircraft and spacecraft and opened to rave reviews from museum leaders and tourists alike. It has already attracted millions of visitors.

"The National Museum of the Marine Corps will truly be a museum of national significance and will attract an international visitorship," said Ezell. "I am honored to be chosen to lead the team that will ensure the Marine Corps' valuable history will be not only saved, but also made available to the American public through this superb facility."

Ezell holds a master's degree in public administration from the University of Maryland and a bachelor's degree in literature and history from the University of Illinois at Springfield. She has published six books and received many awards from the Smithsonian Institution for her strong leadership, commitment to excellence and dedication to the National Air and Space Museum.



Continued from page 1

other logistical issues related to Grand Opening will be communicated in forthcoming issues of *Legacy* and through special mailings.

In its announcement, the Foundation also stated that the fund-raising campaign for the National Museum has secured \$52 million versus a target of \$57 million.

Campaign chairman L. M. Baker, Jr., applauding the generosity of all project donors, noted that: "Grand Opening is the realization of the efforts of many to create a place that will honor the contributions and sacrifices of generations of Marines in our nation's service. This celebration will allow us to properly recognize and thank all those

who have made possible the building of this newest national treasure. We need, and ask for, your continued generosity to put our campaign over the top and thereby ensure success."

The next twelve months will see intense construction, development and planning activity on many fronts: the physical structure of the National Museum will be finished; exhibitry will be fabricated; construction of Semper Fidelis Memorial Park will begin; and landscaping will be installed. Simultaneously, national awareness for the project will be raised through media and public relations outreach. All these activities will culminate in Grand Opening.



The management and staff of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation offer our members, Charter Sponsors and supporters warmest wishes for a joyful holiday season. We also ask for your thoughts and prayers in remembrance of all who are serving our nation in harm's way at this time.



Project Notes

■ The Foundation's Annual Awards Banquet, a black-tie event, will be held on March 31, 2006, at the Sheraton Premiere Hotel in Tyson's Corner, Virginia. Guests of Honor are General Peter Pace, USMC, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Marshall Carter, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange. To purchase individual tickets, please call 703-640-7965; for corporate tables, please contact Jennifer Vanderveld at 703-630-3122. Proceeds benefit the awards fund and construction of the National Museum.

■ The U.S. Mint-issued Commemorative Silver Dollar honoring the 230th Anniversary of the Corps has now sold out its mintage run of 600,000 coins. The success of the Coin sales campaign, featured in the last issue of *Legacy*, is attributed to the enthusiastic response of the Marine community. The National Museum campaign will receive \$6 million as the designated beneficiary of the surcharges from the Coin sales proceeds.

■ A new brochure describing giving and donor recognition opportunities associated with the development of Semper Fidelis Memorial Park will shortly be available. Please contact Col Ray Hord, USMC (Ret), the Foundation's vice president for development, at 703-630-3122 if you would like to receive a copy of the new brochure. The Park, an important part of the visitor experience, is a place for remembrance and reflection located adjacent to the National Museum.

■ The Foundation's recent 7th Annual Semper Fidelis Luncheon was a success. The Military Guest of Honor, LtGen Pete Osman, USMC, gave participants an insider's perspective on the exemplary performance of Marines in the field in Iraq and elsewhere.

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