

HIGH DESERT MUSEUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, February 26, 2019

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High Desert Museum Offers Free Admission to Active U.S. Military

BEND, OR — The High Desert Museum is now offering free admission to active duty military personnel and their families, including National Guard and Reserve, all year long.

Since 2010, the High Desert Museum has provided free admission to all active duty service members and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day as part of the Blue Star Museums program. The program is in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense and hundreds of museums across the country.

Since participation in the Blue Star Museums program began, the High Desert Museum has given free access to almost 6,000 active military members and their families.

“We greatly value those who serve in all branches of the military and want to honor that by extending free admission year-round,” said Museum Executive Director Dana Whitelaw, Ph.D.

Free admission 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, as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps – and up to five family members.

More information about the High Desert Museum and the Blue Star Museums program can be found at highdesertmuseum.org/blue-star-museum.

The Museum’s winter hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. A full slate of programs takes place every day, including our Bird of Prey Encounter and Otter Encounter. Learn more about regular programs at highdesertmuseum.org/daily-schedule.

Now on display is a 40-year retrospective of nationally renowned artist and Vietnam veteran Rick Bartow in the exhibit *Rick Bartow: Things You Know But Cannot Explain*, open through April 7. Another temporary exhibit now on display is *Animal Journeys: Navigating in Nature*. More information on the Museum’s temporary and permanent exhibitions is available at highdesertmuseum.org/exhibitions.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM:

THE HIGH DESERT MUSEUM opened in 1982 and brings regional wildlife, culture, art and natural resources together to promote an understanding of the natural and cultural heritage of North America's

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High Desert country. The Museum uses indoor and outdoor exhibits, wildlife in natural habitats, and living history demonstrations to help people discover and appreciate the High Desert. The Museum is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and is a Smithsonian Affiliate. highdesertmuseum.org

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