



The Willamette Heritage Center (WHC) at *The Mill* to Participate in Blue Star Museums For Immediate Release

The Willamette Heritage Center is pleased to announce its 2012 participation in Blue Star Museums, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and more than 1,500 museums across America.

Effective immediately through Labor Day, FREE admission is available for all active duty military personnel and their families.

"We at the Willamette Heritage Center are delighted to once again host the launch of this summer's Blue Star Museum program," said Peter Booth, Executive Director. "We are very grateful to the military community, and appreciate the opportunity for them to experience and enjoy the stories of our local heritage."

The free admission program is available to active-duty military and their immediate family members (military ID holder and five immediate family members). Active duty military include Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and active duty National Guard and active duty Reserve members. Blue Star Families is a national, nonpartisan, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect and empower military families. In addition to morale and empowerment programs, Blue Star Families raises awareness of the challenges and strengths of military family life and works to make military life more sustainable.

Some special programs or events may not be included in this free admission program. For questions on particular programs or events, please contact the WHC.

Military personnel and military family members who have questions about the program may contact Blue Star Families at museums@bluestarfam.org.

The Willamette Heritage Center at The Mill, a unification between Mission Mill Museum and Marion County Historical Society, is a stroll through the history of the Willamette Valley. Its 5-acre campus is home to the 1841 Jason Lee house (arguably the oldest wooden framed house in Oregon), 1841 Willamette Mission Parsonage, 1847 John Boon home, 1858 Pleasant Grove Church and the 1896 Thomas Kay Woolen Mill, named an *American Treasure* by the National Park Service. Since its founding in 1964 as a private non-profit association, Mission Mill Museum has established a reputation as a leader in the preservation and interpretation of Oregon's history. The museum's histories are shared with visitors through daily and group tours, speakers, living history, children's programs, hands-on activities, special events, the museum store and rental facilities. For more information call 503-585-7012 or visit <http://www.willametteheritage.org>.

The Willamette Heritage Center is a private not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization. It is not managed by city, county, state or federal agencies

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