

**CONTACT:**

Sara Poore
Director of Education & Public
Programs
P.O. Box 922
Fredericksburg, VA 22404
540.371.3037 ext. 140
540.371.1001 (fax)
spoore@famcc.org
www.famcc.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**MAY 26, 2011****FREDERICKSBURG AREA MUSEUM AND CULTURAL CENTER TO PARTICIPATE IN
BLUE STAR MUSEUMS**

Fredericksburg, VA –The Fredericksburg Area Museum and Cultural Center announces the launch of **Blue Star Museums**, a partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and more than 1,300 museums across America to offer free admission to all active duty military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2011. Leadership support has been provided by MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families. The complete list of participating museums is available at www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

“The Museum is thrilled to, once again, participate in Blue Star Museums. This program allows us the opportunity to say thank you to all of our active duty military personnel and their families for their sacrifices,” said Sara Poore, Director of Education and Public Programs.

“Blue Star Museums may be the program at the NEA of which I am proudest,” said NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman. “Blue Star Museums recognizes and thanks our military families for all they are doing for our country, and simultaneously begins young people on a path to becoming life-long museum goers.”

“Last year the success of the inaugural year of the Blue Star Museums program showed that partnerships between the nation’s museum and military communities are a natural,” said Blue Star Families Chairman Kathy Roth-Douquet. “We are thrilled that 300,000 military family members visited our partner museums in the summer of 2010. We hope to exceed that number this year as the military community takes advantage of the rich cultural heritage they defend and protect every day. We appreciate the NEA and the nation’s museums who chose to partner with us. We also are grateful to our friends at the MetLife Foundation, the lead supporter of the Blue Star Museums outreach initiative, whose generous donation helps make our work possible.”

In addition, the Museum announces new operating hours beginning June 1, 2011. FAMCC will open Mon – Sat at 10:00 am and Sunday at 12:00 pm.

For more information please either contact the Museum at 540-371-3037, or visit us at www.famcc.org. The mission of the Fredericksburg Area Museum & Cultural Center is to collect, interpret and present the history and culture of the Fredericksburg region and community.