



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ginny Underwood
Marketing and Communications Manager
ginnyu@famok.org
405.229.7210

First Americans Museum event honors service members and seeks to expand Native veteran database

OKLAHOMA CITY (November 8, 2021) – The First Americans Museum (FAM) is inviting veterans and servicemembers, who are members of the 39 Tribal Nations in Oklahoma to participate in a “Making History” event Nov. 11-14, 2021. The event is an opportunity for veterans and service members to be added to an interactive database featured in FAM’s Tribal Nations Gallery.

“First Americans have the highest record of service per capita in the armed forces compared to the general population and we honor and commemorate their service at FAM,” said James Pepper Henry (Kaw/Muscogee), FAM Director/CEO.

Tribally enrolled veterans, service members and their families may bring documentation of military service, awards, and photographs to be professionally scanned by archivists. Portrait photography will be available on a first-come, first-served basis to support this effort. Families of those unable to participate may submit documentation on behalf of their loved ones.

“Warriors are such an important part of our tribal communities,” said Heather Ahtone (Choctaw/Chickasaw), FAM senior curator. “We want the FAM database to continue to grow and be a resource to both honor those who have served and to promote the warrior values of sacrifice, caring for community, and protecting our cultures.”

Funding for the “Making History” project is provided through a grant from Boeing, which announced in November \$1.8 million in donations to organizations supporting Indigenous communities in the U.S.

“During the event, we welcome all veterans and service members, Native and non-Native, with free admission to our galleries and a 20 percent discount on their meal in the Thirty Nine Restaurant,” said Pepper Henry.

For more information and to schedule an appointment to participate in the “Making History” project, visit www.famok.org/events/veteransday2021.

###

About First Americans Museum

FAM’s mission is to educate the broader public about the unique cultures, diversity, history, and contributions of the 39 Tribal Nations in Oklahoma today. The 175,000 square foot facility showcases state-of-the-art exhibitions in history, culture, and art; live public and education programs; a children’s discovery center with immersive family-friendly activities; a full-service restaurant presenting unique Native inspired cuisine; and a museum shop featuring one-of-a-kind hand-made items created by Oklahoma’s premier Native American artists.