

# NATIONAL GUARD

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# MEMORIAL MUSEUM

WASHINGTON, DC

## MISSION STATEMENT

The National Guard Memorial Museum is the first and only national museum dedicated to telling the story of the entire National Guard of the United States. The mission of the National Guard Memorial Museum is to educate the public on the history of the National Guard and to expand interest. To this end, the Museum focuses on the National Guard's role in the protection of national interest both domestically and internationally and helps to make the general public aware of the sacrifices made by the Citizen-Soldiers of the United States.

**HISTORY OF THE MUSEUM:** First opened as the National Guard Heritage Gallery in 1976 in time for America's bicentennial celebration, the museum originally explored the origins of the Guard through a series of artifacts and dioramas. Today, the museum covers over 375 years of Guard history, beginning with the first muster in 1636 and ending with the current foreign and domestic missions that Guardsmen carry out today. Uniforms, firearms, battle gear and other artifacts are featured throughout the exhibit space. The newest Gallery, The Citizen-Soldier in WWII, elegantly reflects the modern trend of interactivity in storytelling. The museum concludes with the 9/11 Era Gallery, which focuses on how the National Guard has transformed from a strategic reserve into an operational force since the terrorist attacks in 2001.

Approved Board of Directors March 10, 2017