

NATIONAL VETERANS MEMORIAL AND MUSEUM

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Lieutenant General Michael Ferriter (U.S. Army, Retired)

Appointed President & CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

[Columbus, Ohio] With 35 years of service in the U.S. Army commanding Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and International Forces at every level, Lieutenant General Michael Ferriter (U.S. Army, Retired) has been appointed President & CEO of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM) scheduled to open fall 2018 in Columbus, Ohio.

Lieutenant General Ferriter assumes his role immediately and will lead and represent the National Veterans Memorial and Museum across the country. The 53,000 square-foot Museum and 2.5 acre Memorial Grove sit on the riverfront, in a premier location in downtown Columbus, Ohio. Columbus is at the crossroads of our country, with nearly half of the population living within an 8-hour drive.

More than \$82 million has been raised, through private philanthropy and public partnerships, to fully fund the construction costs and provide the beginnings of an endowment for this organization.

The vision of this institution was set forth by the late Senator John Glenn (1921-2016), a retired U.S. Marine Corps Colonel, who served as the Founding Chairman of the Veterans Advisory Committee.

Senator Glenn understood that the careful preservation of not only the names, dates and battles, but of the intimate memories, personal belongings and painful losses matter, because these were ordinary Americans doing extraordinary things by risking everything for their country. Senator Glenn lived this, and his vision served as the foundation for the four pillars of the museum:

- Honor
- Connect
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“I have worked alongside the exceptional men and women of the military for my entire life,” said Lieutenant General Ferriter. “To lead a one-of-a-kind organization like NVMM that seeks to tell the stories and honor the service of members of the military is a tremendous honor and responsibility. I am humbled.”

Lieutenant General Ferriter is uniquely qualified to lead NVMM given his robust history with the U.S. Army. Commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1979, he has participated in numerous overseas operations such as Operation Restore Hope in Somalia, and Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn in Iraq. He completed three tours of duty in Iraq in addition to combat service in Somalia, parachuted with Paratroopers and Rangers more than 200 times and served as the lead conduit with the Iraqi government from 2008-2010. After a successful career with the U.S. Army, Ferriter continued his commitment to serve by establishing The Ferriter Group, LLC, a consulting firm that focuses on improving organizations, leaders and teams, many of which were veterans, through a customized approach to refine organizational effectiveness.

"We received a lot of input from veteran's groups about the skills and leadership traits that the leader of the NVMM should possess," said Guy Worley, President and CEO of the Columbus Downtown Development Corporation, developers of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum. "As a three-star general with a distinguished record of service to our country for 35 years, Lieutenant General Ferriter embodies the characteristics and experience necessary to lead this exceptional institution. We know he will carry out the mission of honoring the nearly 21 million veterans and their families who sacrifice so much to protect our freedom."

Lieutenant General Ferriter was appointed after a nationwide search. His immediate focus will be to create awareness about the new museum, build a top-tier team to run the institution and debut the new museum to the public this fall. Interior and exterior construction is nearing completion and exhibit installation is currently underway in preparation to open.

Lieutenant General Ferriter and his wife Margie have four children who are invested in military and public service to our country.

Lieutenant General Ferriter is a graduate of The Citadel with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. He received his Master's degree in Administration from Central Michigan University and was a Senior National Defense Fellow at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University.

About the National Veterans Memorial and Museum

With nearly 21 million living veterans throughout the United States, from our Greatest Generation to our recent heroes coming home from Afghanistan and Iraq, the time for America to remember and to honor its veterans is now.

The National Veterans Memorial and Museum (NVMM) is neither a war memorial nor a military branch of service museum. NVMM will take visitors on a narrative journey telling individual stories and shared experiences of veterans throughout history. It will pay tribute to the sacrifices of servicemen and women and their families. History will be presented in a dynamic, participatory experience with photos, letters and personal effects, multi-media presentations, and interactive exhibits. Together, these elements will link our national story to the larger context of world events since our country's earliest days, and will demonstrate the importance of individuals in shaping our history.

A first-in-class team has been involved in the development of this cultural institution. The Columbus Downtown Development Corporation has served as project manager, raising the funds, leading the design, construction and opening efforts and managing a team of premier consultants, including Allied Works Architecture, Olin and Ralph Appelbaum Associates.

Construction began in December 2015 and the building is on schedule to open in fall 2018.

While the opening of the museum is the first step, future plans for an educational online curriculum and an interactive, virtual tour experience will be key priorities moving forward.

Please visit www.nationalvmm.org for more information.