

MEDIA ALERT

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**NHA WHALING MUSEUM OFFERS
FREE ADMISSION FOR ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY
AS PART OF BLUE STAR MUSEUMS INITIATIVE**

NANTUCKET MA: Active-duty military personnel and their families will receive free admission to the Nantucket Historical Association's Whaling Museum and historic sites from Memorial Day to Labor Day as part of the Blue Star Museums initiative. The free admission program is available to active-duty military personnel, including active-duty Reserve and National Guard, and up to five immediate family members.

The Whaling Museum is open daily, 10 A.M.–5 P.M.; the historic sites are open daily, Noon–4 P.M., May 29–June 30, and Noon–5 P.M., July 1–September 4.

Now in its second year, Blue Star Museums is made possible through a partnership of the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and more than 1,300 museums across the United States. Leadership support for the initiative has been provided by the MetLife Foundation through Blue Star Families, a national, nonpartisan network of military families with a mission to support, connect, and empower military families.

"Blue Star Museums may be the program at the National Endowment for the Arts of which I am proudest," says Rocco Landesman, chairman of the NEA, a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts. "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 of becoming lifelong museum goers."

During the 2010 inaugural year, more than 300,000 military family members visited partner museums in all fifty states and the District of Columbia.

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