

Military Heritage Museum to host ‘Witness to War’ producers

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With 789,711 veterans in Florida, our state ranks third in the nation — behind only California and Texas — in veteran population. In the coming weeks, the Military Heritage Museum will host the producers from the Witness to War Foundation to capture stories from our state veterans.

From January 21-24, Florida veterans are invited to participate in a free recorded interview session with an experienced interviewer. These recorded interviews will be preserved and shared by both organizations for years to come so that future generations will be able to watch and learn from these amazing, life-changing stories. These stories are also being captured for the Library of Congress.

“Because of the partnership between these two non-profits, our veteran stories will truly go down in history,” said Gary Butler, executive director of the Military Heritage Museum.

The event will take place from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, Jan. 21-23, at the new museum location in building B of 900 W. Marion Ave. (formerly the IMPAC University campus).

All veterans welcome. In order to participate, veterans must register at bit.ly/2RzQJSe or by calling 575-9002 to RSVP for an interview slot.

The mission of the Military Heritage Museum is to promote a greater understanding of and respect and appreciation for the rich military heritage of the United States and the sacrifices made by our country’s veterans, living and dead, emphasizing that “Freedom isn’t free.” The museum takes visitors on a moving interactive journey through our nation’s military heritage and history, whereby all who come to discover and connect will leave inspired to remember and honor those who serve.

The Witness to War Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3), and was founded in 2001 by Atlanta-based entrepreneur Tom Beaty. The foundation is dedicated to capturing the stories of individual combat veterans. It is about the “foxhole” or “windshield” view of combat as seen by the soldiers, sailors and airmen who experienced it. It is about the fear, the emotions, the training and the previously untapped wells of personal courage that enabled ordinary individuals to survive — and, in some cases, thrive — under extraordinary pressures and almost unimaginable danger. The Witness to War Foundation is dedicated to understanding, as much as possible, what it was like to “be there.” †