

MediaContacts:

Marcie Gordon, Director, Community Engagement and Marketing
919-807-7995, marcie.gordon@ncdcr.gov

Elizabeth Beal, Press Release

919-807-7943, elizabeth.beal@ncdcr.gov

Brittany Jennings, Red Cross of Eastern North Carolina
(919) 277-2803, Brittany.Jennings2@redcross.org



Raw Expression Helps Heal Wounded Marines in New American Red Cross Exhibit at N.C. Museum of History

The Red Cross of Eastern North Carolina, in honor of celebrating their centennial this year, is partnering with the N.C. Museum of History to open ***American Red Cross: Healing the Warrior's Heart through Art.***

"The museum is pleased to partner with the American Red Cross to bring to the public this exhibit of the remarkable art created by these wounded warriors. We hope it will help people realize the incredible sacrifice these soldiers and veterans have made for our country," said Ken Howard, director of the N.C. Museum of History.

This powerful exhibit features more than 20 paintings and three sculptures created by U.S. Marines who were wounded while serving. The Marines completed the artwork under the guidance of world-renowned artist Craig Bone as part of an art therapy program for Wounded Warrior Battalion–East, based out of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Prior to working under the guidance of Bone, the Marines had no experience creating representational art. The results are astounding, and visitors can expect to be surprised and stirred by what they see.

“[Art] was very therapeutic and soothing for me to fall back on after I got shot up. It’s my job as an artist to keep these images in people’s minds,” said Craig Bone.

The collection of works created from Bone’s art therapy program is diverse and compelling, with each piece telling its own story. Some of the paintings harbor a few secrets: hidden pictures that visitors can search for. Heartfelt quotes from the Marines and artists help illustrate the unexpected psychological and emotional recovery many made through this program, and what that recovery meant to their families.

“*American Red Cross: Healing the Warrior’s Heart through Art* is a raw exhibit that tells the story of service members who need our support, whether active-duty or veterans,” said Barry Porter, regional CEO of the Red Cross of Eastern North Carolina. “We are honored to bring this powerful exhibit to the public.”

North Carolina’s proud military tradition is present in these works. This exhibit is a fresh and timely take on a national issue that resonates deeply within our state and affects not just Marines, but all military and their loved ones as well.

The exhibit opens **Sunday, June 25**, in the museum’s third-floor gallery space, adjacent to the new *North Carolina and World War I* exhibit.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian-affiliated museum, call 919-807-7900 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Google+ or YouTube.

IMAGE LINK: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/3pkjbmo2s36w83x/AAC7OtxcQQIQh0AcEYUjxV9Na?dl=0>

Image captions, left to right: Seal of USMC Wounded Warrior Battalion–East, courtesy of Wounded Warrior Regiment; *Medevac*, USMC Wounded Warrior Battalion–East, courtesy of American Red Cross, Eastern North Carolina Region; Craig Bone, photograph courtesy of the artist.

About the N.C. Museum of History

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the American Red Cross

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation’s blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.