Mid-Continent Public Library Hosts ‘Veterans Salute’

Library Honors Veterans During Annual Program at Midwest Genealogy Center

Independence, MO – Mid-Continent Public Library is proud to announce the return of its annual Veterans Salute program, which pays tribute to the service and sacrifice of U.S. Armed Forces members. This year’s Salute will take place on Saturday, September 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at MCPL’s Midwest Genealogy Center (3440 S. Lee’s Summit Road, Independence, MO 64055).

“Veterans Salute is about demonstrating our appreciation for the men and women who have served our country and celebrating our military’s rich history,” said Stephen Chalmers, manager of MCPL’s Excelsior Springs Branch and Veterans Salute chairperson. “At Mid-Continent Public Library, we are proud to carry on this annual tradition, which provides an enriching experience for the entire family.”

The daylong program will kick off with a live musical performance at 9 a.m. by the American Legion Band, followed by a keynote speech at 9:30 a.m. from Dr. James Willbanks, General of the Army George C. Marshall Chair of Military History at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College at Ft. Leavenworth. Other activities and exhibits at the 2017 Veterans Salute include:

- Military collectors and displays of hundreds of historic artifacts
- 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.—family-friendly activities including face painters, free t-shirts for kids (while supplies last), balloon artists, and appearances by Chiefs mascot KC Wolf, Royals mascot Sluggerrr, and Missouri Mavericks mascot Mac
- Sneak peek clips from The Vietnam War, the 10-part, 18-hour documentary PBS film series directed by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick, courtesy of KCPT, as part of Big Read KC*
- Food truck fare from Coffeecake KC, Jazzy B’s, and more
- Special veteran recognition ceremony with commemorative pin for all attending veterans at 1:30 p.m.

“It’s an honor to host this celebration every year, and we are proud to recognize our brave veterans during the commemorative pinning ceremony,” said Steven V. Potter, MCPL Director and CEO, who will lead the ceremony along with Donald Bridgforth, MCPL Human Resources Director and U.S. Navy veteran who served during the Vietnam War. “The commemorative pins serve as a small token of our appreciation to these brave men and women who have sacrificed a great deal on our behalf.”
This year’s Veterans Salute is part of Big Read KC, a citywide initiative designed to unite the community over conversation and curriculum surrounding a single book. Funded by the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest, Big Read KC kicks off in September with events and book groups offered around the metro by six local library systems, including MCPL. Big Read KC will focus on Tim O’Brien’s highly acclaimed *The Things They Carried*, a semi-autographical book about a platoon in the Vietnam War. For more information about Big Read KC, including a complete list of events, visit bigreadkc.org.

For more information about Veterans Salute, visit mymcpl.org/veterans-salute.

###

**Access Your World**

*Mid-Continent Public Library* is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and four Library-To-Go locations and serving nearly 800,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner. Connect with the Library on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.