



Military
Heritage
Museum

900 West Marion, Punta Gorda, Florida 33950 | 941.575.9002

www.militaryheritagemuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 5, 2023

Contact: Debby Steele, Marketing Coordinator
Email: dsteele@militaryheritagemuseum.org
Museum: 941.575.9002
Cell: 941.628.4121
Website: www.militaryheritagemuseum.org

IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN VETERANS' APPRECIATION DAY

Punta Gorda, Florida, January 5, 2023: The Military Heritage Museum will host a free admission day for Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans who served in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. At 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Derek W. Knuffke, LTC, U.S. Army (Ret), a 21-year Army Veteran will recognize our veterans, prior to the documentary viewing. Knuffke retired in 2015 as a Lieutenant Colonel, served four tours of duty in Iraq, one tour of duty in Afghanistan, with a total of 48 months in a combat theater beginning in 2003 with the liberation of Iraq. All veterans of these wars beginning with Desert Storm through the second Gulf Wars, along with the War in Afghanistan, will be recognized and remembered for their sacrifice. The families as well as the public are strongly encouraged to attend the Museum's activities dedicated to these heroes.

The Gulf Theater Gallery will host displays in January with highlights from Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. On Tuesday, January 17, 2023 only, the documentary, "Bad Voodoo's War" will be featured in the Gulf Theater at 11:00 a.m. and again in the Museum Library at 1:00 p.m. The documentary is a PBS Frontline – 2008. In June 2007, as the American military surge reached its peak, a band of National Guard infantrymen who call themselves "The Bad Voodoo Platoon" was deployed to Iraq. To record their war, from private reflections to real-time footage of improvised explosive device (IED) attacks on the ground, FRONTLINE creates a "virtual embed," supplying cameras to the Soldiers of the "Bad Voodoo Platoon" and working with them to shape an intimate portrait that reveals the hard grind of their war. The film intimately tracks the veteran soldiers of "Bad Voodoo" through the daily realities of their perilous mission, grappling with the political complexities of dealing with Iraqi security forces, and battling their fatigue and their fears.

The Military Heritage Museum, 900 West Marion Avenue, Punta Gorda, Florida is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday. Admission includes gallery tours, exhibits, flight simulators and virtual reality.

For further information, please visit www.militaryheritagemuseum.org. or call 941.575.9002.



###