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## **NMMC to Open WWI Combat Art Exhibit**

In commemoration of the centennial of WWI, the National Museum of the Marine Corps will open a joint art exhibition depicting the story of the Marines and Sailors who fought and died in "the war to end all wars" and honors their memory a century later. The exhibition officially opens to the public on June 6, the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Belleau Wood.

The exhibition, in collaboration with the Naval Heritage and History Command, will open in June and contain 92 works by 42 artists drawn from the collections of the NMMC, the Naval History and Heritage Command and the National Museum of the United States Army.

The works, based on personal experiences or from historical perspectives, were created by service members, some of America's leading illustrators, and even some unknown artists. The pieces document the everyday activities of Marines, the grisly battlefields of Belleau Wood and Blanc Mont Ridge, the combat debut of Marine Corps aviation as well as the U.S. Navy's battles against German U-boats and the stormy waters of the North Atlantic.

Artwork from the home front includes posters intended to energize Americans to donate books, plant gardens, nurse the sick and wounded, and give their overall support to the war effort on a scale not seen before.

Also included in the exhibition is a selection of portraits of Marine Medal of Honor recipients by noted artist Col. Charles H. Waterhouse, USMCR (Ret.), paired with artwork that captures their heroic deeds.

Finally, the exhibit showcases a small complementary selection of artifacts from the National Museum of the Marine Corps: objects brought back home by Marines that were transformed from mundane gear, such as helmets, mess kits, and artillery shells, into beautiful pieces of art.

The show will be on display in the NMMC's Combat Art Gallery until April 2019. Admission to the show, and the Museum, is always free. The Museum, located in Triangle, Va., is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every day except Christmas. For more information about NMMC visit [www.usmcmuseum.com](http://www.usmcmuseum.com).

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