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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NMMC Opens Combat Art Gallery

Fine art and Marine Corps history come together at the National Museum of the Marine Corps on July 9. That's when the Museum's Combat Art Gallery opens with its inaugural exhibition "Honor, Courage, Commitment: Marine Corps Art, 1975-2015."

This first exhibition features 100 works by 22 artists and honors the Marines who have served in the Corps during the last 40 years. It echoes the core values of the Marine Corps: honor, courage and commitment and is divided between three themes.

Every Clime and Place illustrates Marines as they conduct training and engage the enemy in a variety of settings and situations around the globe. *No Better Friend, No Worse Enemy* captures Marines meeting the enemy with unmatched ferocity and then rendering aid to civilians under the most dire of circumstances. The final theme, *The Price*, reminds us that war is all-consuming. Marines willingly accept the risks associated with their missions, and families shoulder the burdens of uncertainty, loss, and grief.

While it may seem odd to pair fine art with Marine Corps history, the Corps has actually been doing just that since WWI. Its informal association with art began when Col. John W. Thomason, Jr. produced a powerful series of battlefield sketches.

The official Marine Corps Combat Art Program began in 1942. Its mission was to keep Americans informed of their Marines' actions overseas. The Program was disestablished after WWII, enjoyed a short rebirth during the Korean War, and was permanently established in 1966. Since that time, the Marine Corps Combat Art Collection has grown to include more than 9,000 works by more than 350 artists. The works represent Marine experiences around the globe by artists who used their talents to tell the story of their fellow Marines, based in part on their own experiences and perspectives.

Many of these works will be featured in future exhibitions in the Combat Art Gallery. "Honor, Courage, Commitment: Marine Corps Art 1975-2015" will be on display through April 2018. A new show highlighting WWI will open in June 2018.

The Combat Art Gallery is part of NMMC's 117,000 square foot "Final Phase" which more than doubles the Museum's current size. Also included in the new spaces will be The Medal of Honor Theater featuring a destination film (July 2017), expanded Education Suite and Children's Gallery (November 2017), Historical galleries covering the Corps' history from 1976 to the present (2018), Hall of Valor (2020), Marine Corps Sports Gallery and Hall of Fame (2020), Inter-wars Gallery covering 1919-1940 (2021) and a Changing Exhibits Gallery (2021).

More than 5 million visitors have experienced history at the National Museum of the Marine Corps. Now visitors will be able to explore Marine Corps history through art.

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is located at 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway in Triangle, VA. and is open 9:00 am – 5:00 pm daily except Christmas Day. Admission and parking are free. For more information, please call 703 784-6107 or visit the Museum's website at www.usmcmuseum.com.

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