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NMMC Wins VRLTA's Attraction of the Year Award

Triangle, VA - The National Museum of the Marine Corps (NMMC) is the winner of the Ordinary Awards Attraction of the Year presented by the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging and Travel Association (VRLTA).

The VRLTA Ordinary Awards celebrate and honor those in the hospitality and travel industry that are truly **extraordinary**. The Attraction of the Year recognizes NMMC's contributions to Virginia's tourism industry by implementing innovative ideas and demonstrating passion for enhancing travel to its community. VRLTA specifically recognized NMMC for its ongoing contributions to the community at large, and its response to changes imposed by COVID-19.

During the pandemic, NMMC professional staff developed programs as part of the "new normal." This included live video tours highlighting different galleries and allowing viewers the opportunity to ask questions in real-time, thereby keeping visitors engaged while NMMC was closed.

NMMC Education staff developed and presented the virtual JAG (Judge Advocate General) homeschool program. For three weeks, students studied a crime scene, gathered physical and testimonial evidence, and put their arguments together for court. The final episode was a live interactive trial. The JAG program attracted more than 150 participants.

NMMC's Distance Learning has also been in high demand during the pandemic and beyond. NMMC facilitates learning all over the world through its online distance learning programs to engage audiences with the incredible history of the United States Marine Corps. Classes include a plethora of virtual learning experiences and subject matter for students, educators, and lifelong learners on important topics related to the Marine Corps.

NMMC reopened to the public on September 8, and continues to support the community while also maintaining strict safety measures, allowing visitors to safely experience the Museum's passion for telling the Corps' story.

For more information about the Museum's reopening protocols, frequently asked questions and more, visit www.usmcmuseum.com/covid-19.

NMMC continues working on new exhibits and galleries covering the years from 1976 through the Global War on Terror. These new galleries will take visitors to Somalia, Beirut, Desert Shield/Desert Storm, and into Iraq and Afghanistan. Stories in the galleries explore the role of the Marine family, the price of freedom, and even Marines who are also professional athletes.

The Museum is a public-private partnership between the U.S. Marine Corps and the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. The National Museum of the Marine Corps, under the command of Marine Corps University, preserves and exhibits the material history of the U.S. Marine Corps; honors the commitment, accomplishments, and sacrifices of Marines; supports recruitment, training, education, and retention of Marines; and provides the public with a readily accessible platform for the exploration of Marine Corps history. It is located at 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway in Triangle, VA, and is open 9:00 am to 5:00 pm daily except December 25. Admission and parking are free. For more information, call 703-784-6107 or visit on the web at www.usmcmuseum.com.