**Channel Islands Maritime Museum**

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THE CHANNEL ISLANDS MARITIME MUSEUM GRANTS FREE MUSEUM ACCESS TO ACTIVITY DUTY MILITARY PERSONNEL AND THEIR FAMILIES AS PART OF THE BLUE STAR MUSEUM PROGRAM

***CIMM is one of more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and the Department of Defense***

[OXNARD, CA, 6/29/2016] – The Channel Islands Maritime Museum is proud to be a part of Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America to offer **free admission to the nation’s active duty military personnel including National Guard and Reserve and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day** 2016. Leadership support for Blue Star Families programming and promotional materials has been provided by MetLife Foundation. The program also provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation's cultural heritage and learn more about their new communities after a military move. The complete list of participating museums is available at arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

“The Blue Star Museums program is a fun, free activity for military families to enjoy during the summer months,” said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. “The program is also a great way for service member families to connect to their new communities, and it can provide a meaningful way for families to reconnect after deployment. The Blue Star Museums program is also a perfect way for the arts community to say ‘thank you’ to our service members and their families for the sacrifices they make on our behalf, every day.”

The Channel Islands Maritime Museum is open daily from 11-5pm. Located in Oxnard’s Channel Islands Harbor at 3900 Bluefin Circle. Explore galleries full of rare and beautiful maritime paintings dating back to the 1600’s, more than sixty world-class models of historic ships, rotating thematic fine arts exhibitions, and interactive exhibits that encourage visitors to expand their horizons about everything maritime. Museum entry is $5 adults, $4 seniors, $2 children (ages 6-17), and free for members and children under 6. Info: cimmvc.org or 805.984.6260.