

For Immediate Release

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER

A PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIBUTE TO SOLDIERS AND MARINES

FROM THE CIVIL WAR TO THE WAR IN IRAQ

visits Florence, South Carolina

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THE AMERICAN SOLDIER, A PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIBUTE, an exhibition of 116 photographs, from the Civil War to the War in Iraq, will open to the public at 9:00am on Veteran's Day, November 11th, 2009 at Florence Civic Center of Florence, SC. The breathtaking display will be on view until February 2nd, 2010.

THE AMERICAN SOLDIER is a dramatic exhibition of photographs that captures the essence of American soldiering over more than 150 years, ever since the birth of photography when the camera became a notebook to history, starting with the Civil War. As photography improved so did the record of **THE AMERICAN SOLDIER**.

The 116 enlarged photographs in this exhibition, covers America at war from the Civil War, Spanish American War, Boxer Rebellion, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Afghanistan, and to the streets of Baghdad. The exhibition captures the danger and the frustration, the humor and the beauty, the camaraderie, the death and the victory that **THE AMERICAN SOLDIER** encountered in his odyssey through history and continues to, as he battles today in the mountains of Afghanistan and the urban environs of Iraq.

The curator and producer of **THE AMERICAN SOLDIER** is Cyma Rubin. Ms Rubin is also the curator and producer of the highly successful exhibition, *Capture the Moment* **THE PULITZER PRIZE PHOTOGRAPHS**.

The exhibition is sponsored by:

EADS North America, the North American operations of EADS, the second largest aerospace and defense company in the world.

Business of Entertainment Inc. an innovative company: producers of live theatre, films, documentaries and photography exhibitions.

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Pee Dee Region Has Rare Honor Of Hosting Three-Month Military Tribute

Florence, South Carolina (July 7, 2009) - Florence has been selected as the only South Carolina city to host *The American Soldier: A Photographic Tribute from the Civil War to Iraq*. Coinciding with the passionate and graphic traveling exhibit will be several individual Armed Forces appreciation days throughout the November 2009 to February 2010 display period. More than two hundred thousand citizens, veterans and active duty military personnel are expected to visit the SMG-managed Florence Civic Center and the adjacent Veteran's Park Memorial during the three month calendar of appreciation. Honoring events include *The American Soldier* exhibit, five scheduled specific Armed Forces dates, multiple military concerts, United Service Organization (USO) Shows and various military tactical movement displays.

"We are proud to honor our current, retired and fallen soldiers of all United States Armed Forces," said Dennis Smith, Sales Manager of the Florence Civic Center and Air Force veteran. "We have been proactive in seeking out these individual groups, military entertainers and *The American Soldier* exhibition. This is our way of showing our appreciation to those who protect the U.S. and to genuinely say, Thank You."

A listing of these individual Armed Forces appreciation dates include the American Legion Day on November 21, 2009, Veteran's of Foreign War Day on December 5, 2009, Marine Corps League Day on December 19, 2009, Vietnam Veteran's of America Day on January 9, 2010 and the Disabled American Veteran's and Purple Heart Society Day on January 23, 2010. Each specific military tribute day will be held at the Florence Civic Center where guests will have the opportunity to view *The American Soldier: A Photographic Tribute*. An array of highly decorated military men and women along with influential guest speakers, have been invited to share their stories with attending guests.

In addition, plans are underway to host military concerts, USO Shows, tactical marching displays and military instrumental performances throughout the timeline. For more information, please frequent FlorenceCivicCenter.com for updates and details.

Contributing organizations include EADS North America, Business of Entertainment Inc., STETSON An American Spirit, Nesmith Insurance Agency, Gilbert Construction, Pee Dee Kiwanis Club, City of Florence, Florence County, Pee Dee Tourism, Florence Convention and Visitor's Bureau, Mr. B's, Florence Civic Center and Blue Cross/Blue Shield of South Carolina-Tricare Prime.

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About SMG - Since 1977, SMG has provided management services to more than 220 public assembly facilities including arenas, stadiums, theatres and performing arts centers, equestrian facilities and convention, congress and exhibition centers. With facilities across the globe, SMG manages more than 11 million square feet (1.1 million square meters) of exhibition space. As the recognized global industry leader, SMG provides construction and design consulting, pre-opening services, venue management, sales, marketing, event booking, and programming. SMG also offers food and beverage operations through an in-house catering company, Savor, currently servicing more than 100 accounts worldwide. For more information, visit www.smgworld.com.