

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Lake Wales Museum Remembers Our Veterans in May with Military Uniforms Exhibit & WWII Guest Speaker featuring Dr. Gary Mormino and 20th century military collections



LAKE WALES, Florida – The Lake Wales Museum & Cultural Center will host a new exhibit, **“Military Uniforms from the Twentieth Century: An Exhibit Remembering Our Veterans,”** from May 3 – June 9, 2018, and will feature **“Florida and World War II,”** by special guest speaker, Dr. Gary Mormino on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 6 p.m.

To honor and learn from our veterans, the Lake Wales Museum will host an exhibit of original uniforms, weaponry, insignia, medals and other objects from military history. **“Military Uniforms from the Twentieth Century: An Exhibit Remembering Our Veterans”** includes objects on display from the Lake Wales Museum’s permanent collection of military items, pieces on loan from the community, and are interpreted by the museum curator, Bartholomew Delcamp. Some items have never been on display before.

“I’m so excited to have put this exhibit together with an array of items from the museum’s own permanent collection,” states Bartholomew Delcamp, curator at the museum. “People can learn about Lake Wales’ residents from the past who served in the military. For example, Mr. Lee Roy Horton, Jr., who served in WWII, along with his three younger brothers, flew bombers as part of the Flying Tigers, and his Army Air Force uniform will be on display.”

To learn more about Florida’s history in World War II, join us for a talk and discussion with renowned professor, writer, author, historian and speaker, Dr. Gary Mormino, on Thursday, May 17, 2018 at 6 p.m. Dr. Mormino will talk about how on eve of Pearl Harbor, Florida was the smallest state in the South. Today, Florida is a Sunbelt mega state, and WWII was the lynchpin. The war galvanized Floridians, resulting in the influx of two million servicemen. WWII also ignited a modern civil rights movement, new roles for women, and the dawn of the Florida Dream.

Dr. Mormino is the Frank E. Duckwall Florida Professor of History Emeritus at USF St. Petersburg. He is a frequent contributor to the Tampa Bay Times and has written several books, including *“Land of Sunshine, State of Dreams: A Social History of Modern Florida”* and was awarded the 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award for Writing by the Florida Humanities Council. If you aren’t a historian but need someone to put an event into an interesting Florida perspective, ask Gary. Everyone does,

including reporters from the New York Times, the New Yorker and National Public Radio.

The program and exhibit are made possible by the City of Lake Wales and sponsored in part by Visit Central Florida and the Florida Humanities Council with funds from the Florida Department State, Division of Cultural Affairs and the Florida Council on Arts and Culture.

The talk and exhibit are free of charge. Please RSVP to the Lake Wales Museum at 863.676.1759.

About the Florida's Humanities Council

The Florida Humanities Council sponsors community based projects, facilitates important conversations among Floridians, and shines a spotlight on Florida's history, art, and culture. Established in 1973, we are an independent, nonprofit affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. For over forty years we have developed and funded public programs that tell the stories of both Florida and those unique individuals that call this state their home. For more information, visit www.floridahumanities.org.

About the Lake Wales Museum & Cultural Center

The Lake Wales Museum & Cultural Center is open Tuesday – Saturday from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission is free. Parking is free and the first floor is accessible for persons with disabilities, wheelchairs and strollers. For more information contact the Lake Wales Museum, 325 S Scenic Highway, Lake Wales, Florida 33853; 863-676-1759 or visit www.cityoflakewales.com/439/Depot-Museum.