

A Quick Trip to the Jack Hadley Black History Museum To celebrate Blue Star Museums 2016



James "jack" Hadley, Museum Founder/President/Curator, take a quick look at what you will see as you visit the Jack Hadley Black History Museum, a Blue Star Museum 2016

JACK HADLEY BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM 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.

Today in Thomasville, Georgia, May 26, 2016, Jack Hadley Black History Museum announced the launch 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 www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

2016 is a year of celebration for the Jack Hadley Black History Museum and its constituents. It is the 10th Anniversary for the ribbon cutting ceremony for the opening of the First African American Museum in Southwest Georgia and North Florida in its present location.

It is the fifth year that the Jack Hadley Black history Museum has participated with the Blue Star Museum program. James "Jack" Hadley said he know what it's like not to have free events like the Blue Star program to visit. These events did not happen in his 28 years serving in the United States Air force. You had to look for your on outside enjoyment for your family.

Our mission dictates our purpose for being here: The Jack Hadley Black History Museum documents, preserves, and exhibits African American History and Culture of Southwest Georgia.

Today, the Jack Hadley Black History Museum now holds more than 4,697 African American artifacts in our collection, serving as the information highway through the African American Experience and success. We are busy adding to our permanent collection that now includes historical and cultural artifacts that range from, the continent of Africa; African-American artifacts dated back to slavery (locally and nationally); the Jim Crow & caricatures; the Buffalo Soldiers; Blacks in the Military from the Spanish American War to Desert Storm/Iraq/Afghanistan Wars; Blacks in all phases of Government and Civilian life. (Locally and nationally). Military families. We are ready and have our doors opened FREE for you to come and bring your families. We whole a military collection that share your experience that your family need to see, said Jack Hadley.

Some of the main features of the South Georgia Black Achievers portrayed in the Museum are: Lt. Henry O. Flipper, Dr. Martin L. King, Jr., , The Tuskegee Airmen, Retired General Lloyd J. Austin, III, (Thomasville First African American Four Star

General, recently retired after completing 41 honorable years in the United States Army); 1993 Heisman Award Winner Charles Ward, Jr. both native of Thomasville/Thomas County; Jackie Robinson (broke the color barrier in sports) and Mack Robinson, Jackie's oldest brother (silver medalist in 1936 World Olympics in track in Berlin Germany) and Teresa Edwards, the most decorated player in the history of USA basketball (four gold medals and one bronze in five Olympics), all natives of Cairo, GA, etc. Not only does it house historical replicates of documents, pictures and awards but also a collection on exhibits on Black Women who made a difference in America, The Douglass High School era, as a Black segregated high school, Religion exhibit and many more..

The museum continues to serve as an extended classroom to the school systems' students. They take advantage of its wealth through tours and research projects, i.e. Florida A. & M University, Thomas University, Albany State University, and Individual students from around the USA and Groups enter this hall of fame with zeal and dynamism. More than 3,200 students and adults visited the museum in 2015. Many were military families traveling through Thomasville and some living in the surrounding communities, i.e. Moody Air Force Base, Valdosta, Moultrie, Tallahassee, Florida, Albany, Georgia, just to name a few, etc.

The museum has expanded its repertoire of historical archives to include a collection of 3000 books written own/by Blacks on the African American experience. These books were donated by the late Mrs. Perra S. Bell, a retired Professor who taught African American History and Cultural in the 1970s at Towson University, Md.... Presently, we are in the organizational stage of establishing the Bell Library housed on the Douglass Complex grounds next to the Museum. These books will be available to students and to military dependents around the world in the very, very near future, said Jack Hadley.

“Our museum has the collection that can lift the history out of the textbooks and place it directly in front of the students with the dynamics of the seven learning styles (visual (pictures and images), aural (music and sounds), linguistic (documents, books, verbal), and kinesthetic (historical objects & relics).” We are well positioned to help teachers and parents educate student by having resources that educators cannot find in any other location. We have crated our communication with educators to quickly realize the museum can help them fulfill their learning objectives to educate our children. Research has shown that

providing these materials for students and teachers is very beneficial and allows them to integrate the content in their regular academic core curriculum objectives in the classroom; as well as allow students to share new information with their families. We hope our military families will take advantage of the free admission to the museum during Memorial Day to Labor Day.

“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.”

In Thomasville, there are two other museums beside the Jack Hadley Black history Museum you can visit for small fee too: the Thomas County Museum of History, and the Pebble Hill Plantation Museum. You do not want to miss either. They all both worth the trip while you in Thomasville, and please, you cannot miss from visiting our historical downtown area. If you ever been in Germany and wandering around in some of the small Germany town, well come to Thomasville, it will bring back those memory of living in a Germany town. YOU GOT TO SEE US here Thomasville, said Jack Hadley.

“Blue Star Museums has grown into a nationally recognized program that service members and their families look forward to each year,” said Blue Star Families Chief Executive Officer Kathy Roth-Douquet. “It helps bring our local military and civilian communities together, and offers families fun and enriching activities in their home towns. We are thrilled with the continued growth of the program and the unparalleled opportunities it offers.”

This year, more than 2,000 (and counting) museums in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa are taking part in the initiative. Museums are welcome to join Blue Star Museums throughout the summer. The effort to recruit museums has involved partnerships with the American Alliance of Museums, the Association of Art Museum Directors, the Association of Children’s Museums, the American Association of State and Local History, and the Association of Science-Technology Centers. This year’s Blue Star Museums

represent not just fine arts museums, but also science museums, history museums, nature centers, and dozens of children's museums. Among this year's new participants are the Arkansas Arts Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, the Children's Museum of New Hampshire in Dover, New Hampshire, the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History in Pacific Grove, California, the Rochester Museum & Science Center in Rochester, New York, and El Rancho de las Golondrinas, a living history museum in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

The free admission program is available to any bearer of a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), a DD Form 1173 ID card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card, which includes active duty U.S. military - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, as well as members of the National Guard and Reserve, U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps - and up to five family members. Some special or limited-time museum exhibits may not be included in this free admission program. For questions on particular exhibits or museums, please contact the museum directly. To find participating museums and plan your trip, visit arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

All summer long, Blue Star Museums will share stories through social media. Follow Blue Star Museums on Twitter @NEAarts and @BlueStarFamily, #bluestarmuseums, on Facebook, and read the NEA Art Works blog for weekly stories on participating museums and exhibits.

Museums that wish to participate in Blue Star Museums may contact bluestarmuseums@arts.gov or Wendy Clark at 202-682-5451.

This is the latest NEA program to bring quality arts programs to the military, veterans, and their families. Other NEA programs for the military have included the NEA Military Healing Arts Partnership; Great American Voices Military Base Tour; and Shakespeare in American Communities Military Base Tour.

For more information on the Jack Hadley Black History Museum, its military history programs and others, and the Blue Star Museum program, contact the museum at 229-226-5029. You can view a full calendar on Blue Star events at the Jack Hadley black history Museum's website: www.jackhadleyblackhistorymuseum.com. Jack Hadley Black History museum is

located at 214 Alexander Street in Thomasville and again a complete list of participating museums is available at www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

James "Jack" Hadley
President/Founder/ Curator
Jack Hadley Black History Museum
Thomasville, Ga. 31792