

Cole Museum continues veteran traditions on Memorial Day

By Marisa Higgins

Bangor, ME—With Memorial Day less than a week away, the Cole Land Transportation Museum and the Cole family remind and invite veterans—with their families and friends—to grab their walking sticks and participate in this year's parade and Cole-Museum programs .

“Memorial Day is an important time to take a moment to reflect on the lives of those that made the ultimate sacrifice so we can be free to enjoy all that this great country has to offer,” says Jim Neville, Director of Operations at the Cole Museum. “By marching in the parade the veterans can recognize the sacrifice of their brothers and sisters.”

This year's Bangor parade will step-off on the corner of State and Exchange streets at 10:30 a.m., traveling half-a-mile to Davenport Park on Main Street. All veterans are encouraged to join in the parade, and any veterans who may need assistance with the distance are encouraged to ride the school busses provided by Cyr; the busses will load at the corner of Hanock and Exchange streets and will be available to take veterans back to Exchange Street after the parade.

Following the parade at 11:00 a.m., there will be a commemorative service at the Cole Museum, featuring a wreath-laying ceremony, a concert with the Bangor High School Band, and hot dogs, hamburgers, soda, and whoopies pies sold by the band's boosters. All veterans with walking sticks are eligible for a free soda with hotdog or hamburger, and children who attend the service will receive a keepsake American flag and banner.

Museum volunteers will once again be on hand at the parade to adhere reflective stickers to the walking sticks of all veterans participating in the parade. They will be set-up at 9:00 a.m. at The First bank—145 Exchange Street—with stickers, and the walking sticks can be picked-up by veterans with proper documents during regular museum hours.

The walking stick program has been a way for the museum and the Coles to thank veterans for their service and encourage them to participate in the parades. With over 9,000 walking sticks handed-out to World War II, Korean, Vietnam, and Global-War-on-Terror veterans, the program has boosted veteran-attendance at the parades for over two decades.

About

The Cole Land Transportation Museum preserves and displays a selection of Maine's land transportation equipment in hopes to inspire today's generation through their predecessors' triumphs. The museum also supports a number of programs aimed at lifting the aspirations of Maine's youth—especially the underprivileged—so they may be a credit to themselves, their families, and their communities.

The museum is opened May 1 thru November 11, seven days a week 9 am–5 pm, and children under 19 are always free admission. More information can be found by visiting www.colemuseum.org or calling (207) 990-3600 ext. 13.

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To learn more about the Cole Land Transportation Museum's walking sticks and veteran programs, please contact

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