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Drive Ohio's New Homefront to Warfront Trail WWII Victory Celebration

Cambridge, Ohio (July 1, 2020) Something special is happening in Ohio to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the end of WWII. Ten of Ohio's Museums featuring WWII history have joined forces to offer a new Homefront to Warfront Drive-it-Yourself Trail. This ongoing tour kicks-off this summer and runs through the end of the year, but will highlight veteran recognition from August 15 to September 2, the 75th Anniversaries of Victory in Japan Day and the formal signing of the Instrument of Surrender on board the USS Missouri.

The main corridor of this tour connects the homefront, represented by the Dennison Railroad Depot Museum, a National Historic Landmark in Dennison recognized as the best example left in the nation of a WWII Servicemen's Canteen site and the National Veterans Memorial Museum in Columbus which is dedicated to honoring the service of all Veterans.

Other Ohio Museums collaborating on this tour include the Ernest Warther Museum in Dover, the MAPS Air Museum in North Canton, the Old Main Street Museum in Newcomerstown, the Fletcher General Hospital and Chapel and National Museum of Cambridge Glass in Cambridge, the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force in Dayton, the Waco Air Museum in Troy and the Champaign Aviation Museum in Urbana. In total, there are 500 miles of WWII history.

Wendy Zucal, Dennison Railroad Depot Museum Executive Director, who sparked the creation of this history tour, shares, "The beauty of the Trail is that you can plot your own course for historic family fun and do it at your own pace – in the safety of your own car." Zucal explains that while the Dennison Depot was being strongly encouraged to do an event to commemorate this important 75th Anniversary, the pandemic really challenged Ohio Museums to find a safe way to celebrate. This Drive-It-Yourself Tour became the best solution to showcase these attractions.

Debbie Robinson, Executive Director of the Cambridge/Guernsey County Visitors & Convention Bureau is thrilled that two locations in Guernsey County have been included. "The National Museum of Cambridge Glass allows visitors along the trail to experience the homefront efforts

of social consciousness, community needs and relief organizations. Showcasing over 10,000 pieces of Cambridge Glass, the museum allows visitors to experience the manufacturing processes, inspect the molds, etching plates, and crystal quality on this interactive tour. While visitors can't enter Fletcher General Hospital and Fletcher Chapel, they can drive by and view both. Fletcher General Hospital Fletcher was a 2,000- bed facility. Fletcher Chapel was the spiritual hub of the 168 buildings on the grounds. The giant complex, greeted 17,000 service men and women treated between 1943 & 1946."

Trail maps with specific information on days of operation, hours and admission for each attraction are available at each site or can be downloaded at <https://visitguernseycounty.com/?Itemid=265>. The map also encourages users to visit RemarkableOhio.org where travelers can decide to add WWII Markers of historical moments to their travel plan. Additional Homefront to Warfront Tour information is available on the Tourism Ohio's Adventure Trails page at <http://trails.ohio.org/map/>.

As the pandemic guidelines ease, groups interested in turning the trail into a motor coach tour can contact Julie Levensgood the Tuscarawas County Convention & Visitors Bureau, 330.602.2420, grouptour@traveltusc.com

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Overall Tour Contact Information

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Cambridge/Guernsey County Locations Contact Info:

Fletcher Hospital and St. Luke's Chapel, Cambridge, Ohio

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National Museum of Cambridge Glass, Cambridge, Ohio

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