

2026 Society for Military History Conference

March 26-29, 2026 · Arlington, Virginia

TOURS

Thursday, March 26

Tour of the National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution

Curator's Tour of the military history collection.

The military history collections at the National Museum of American History number over 250,000 artifacts spanning the history of the nation. In this curated, behind-the-scenes tour, visitors will be provided an opportunity witness first-hand some of the nation's military treasures and receive an overview of how the museum staff endeavor to collect and curate the varied aspects of the nation's military and its intersections with society.

Tour Details:

- 10:00am – 11:30am
- No mobility concerns and wheelchair accessible
- Meeting point: National Museum of American History. Address : 1300 Constitution Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20560. Please seek the person with the SMH sign.
- Transportation on own.
- Cost: Free (space limited)

National World War I Memorial Tour

With wreath laying and bugle demonstration.

Discover powerful stories of service and sacrifice on a guided tour of the National World War I Memorial, the newest memorial on the National Mall located just steps from the White House. Guests will take part in a meaningful wreath-laying ceremony before *A Soldier's Journey*, the largest free-standing bronze sculpture in the Western Hemisphere, honoring the courage and resilience of those who served. The experience concludes with history brought to life during with Daily Taps by a Doughboy Soldier, sounded on General Pershing's 1918 bugle, a stirring tribute that echoes across the memorial and leaves a lasting impression.

Tour Details:

- 4:30pm – 5pm
- Tour is wheelchair accessible.
- Meeting address/point: 1445 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC 20004
- Transportation on own
- Cost: Free (space limited)

Friday, March 27

Staff Ride/Walking Tour of Arlington National Cemetery

Join Arlington National Cemetery's official historians for a staff ride (walking tour) of the cemetery. This staff ride will visit key sites and provide an opportunity for discussion about the practice of military history and memory at a major tourist destination. Please note: this tour will last approximately two to three hours will include walking on uneven and hilly terrain. Each individual should keep this in mind before signing up. Please wear appropriate footwear and clothing and bring water. This event is free and open to the public.

Tour Details:

- 9 am – 12pm
- Will be walking on uneven and hilly terrain.
- Meeting point: Arlington National Cemetery. Enter the cemetery via the Welcome Center. Turn right after you pass through the security checkpoint. Follow the sign "To Cemetery." Pass through the glass double doors and meet the historians on the terrace, near the bronze sculpture under the rotunda. (Arlington National Cemetery is accessible via Metro from the conference location).
- Transportation on own.
- Cost: Free (space limited)

National Museum of American Jewish Military History

Tour the museum's exhibits to learn about the history of Jewish contributions to the American military from before the Revolution to today. This includes Jews fighting for American independence in 1776, Jewish brother against brother in the Civil War, the Jews who set out to fight an enemy that sought the destruction of the Jewish people in WWII, and those we've lost in the more recent wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. We'll discuss when Jewish identity did (or did not) matter while serving in wartime.

Tour Details:

- 2:30pm – 4pm
- *There is a handicap ramp in the back of the building for those with limited mobility.
- Meeting point: 1811 R St NW, Washington, DC 20009. Enter the building and there will be a staff person with a SMH sign.
- Transportation on own
- Cost: Free (space limited)

Saturday, March 28

Library of Congress

An introductory tour helps visitors understand the significance of the art, architecture, and symbolism of the historic Jefferson Building. Docents also discuss the history and mission of the Library while encouraging visitors to make their own meaningful connections. One hour will be guided and then you welcomed to view the exhibits afterwards.

Tour Details:

- 10am – 1pm
- Tour is wheelchair accessible.
- Meeting address/point: 10 First Street SE, Washington, DC.
- Transportation on own
- Please bring picture ID for entry to tour.
- Cost: Free

Walking Tour of Military Women’s Memorial

The Military Women’s Memorial is the only national memorial and historical repository documenting the stories of all women who serve in, or with, the U.S. Armed Forces. Our education center, at the heart of Arlington National Cemetery, is where we share the stories of these women. A guided tour of our education center will review this entire history, exploring the ways women served, with or without permission, from the Revolutionary War to today.

If you plan to park in the Arlington National Cemetery Parking Garage, parking costs \$3 per hour with a daily maximum of \$12. It is an easy walk to the Memorial from the Arlington Cemetery Metro stop on the blue line. Note: All attendees need to go through security screening at the Arlington National Cemetery Welcome Center. It takes approximately 15 minutes to get through security and to the facility from the parking lot or the Metro stop. Please plan accordingly.

If you need to be dropped off or park closer to the entrance of the Memorial due to mobility issues, Please email Fun Lee at fun@cypressplanninggroup.com after you sign up for the tour.

Tour Details:

- 10am - 1pm
- Tour is wheelchair accessible.
- Meeting address/point: Welcome Center is 1 Memorial Ave, Fort Myer, VA 22211. Everyone will have to go through security at the Arlington National Cemetery Welcome Center. Please look for a guide with a SMH sign outside the welcome center.
- Transportation on own
- Cost: Free