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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wisconsin's Last World War I Veteran Will Live On At
"Fields of Honor" Military Veterans Museum

OSHKOSH, WI – November 28, 2005 – The memories of Kewaunee's Art Fiala, Wisconsin's last World War I veteran, will live on forever as part of the new "Fields of Honor" Military Veterans Museum.

Fiala, who died November 23, 2005 at the age of 106, left behind a permanent record of his remarkable exploits just six months ago, when he shared his wartime experiences on camera as part of the Museum's "Living Legacy" educational series.

"Art Fiala was a remarkable person, and like so many of Wisconsin's veterans, had fascinating stories to tell," said Bob Stephenson, President of the Military Veterans Museum Foundation. "While we are sorry that Art is gone, we are also grateful that he allowed us to record his memories, which will live on in our new museum."

Added Stephenson, "I would also like to take this opportunity to encourage other Wisconsin veterans to contact us and share their experiences as well." Those wishing to do so, Stephenson said, should contact Eric Goldsmith, Director of the Museum's "Living Legacy" program at 920-731-9845.

Fiala, who served in World War I with the 20th Engineering Battalion, is also featured in a new 60-second commercial, produced by PRC Marketing and Time Warner Cable, as part of the "Fields of Honor" Military Veterans Museum's "Everyone Knows A Veteran" \$4.5 million fund-raising campaign for construction of the new facility.

"We were honored that Art took part in this important project," Stephenson said. "Donating to the new "Fields of Honor" Military Veterans Museum is a great way to ensure that future generations never forget the sacrifices that Art Fiala and all the other Wisconsin veterans have made on our behalf."

Fiala, served in the French Alps from March through June of 1918. During his work cutting logs used to build trenches, he was injured when a team of horses he was driving went over an embankment. He was awarded the French Legion of Honor in 1999.



The new "Fields of Honor" Military Veterans Museum, a 45,000 square foot facility scheduled to open in June of 2007, will be located on a 10-acre tract of land a half-mile south of the Experimental Aircraft Association grounds, overlooking Highway 44, just north of the Highway 26 exit.

Dedicated to "All Who Served" the new museum will contain 9,000 square feet of exhibit area, with displays ranging from the Civil War to the present. It will also include an educational resource area – which features a library, art gallery, 120-seat theater and an audio/visual center where future generations can learn about the sacrifices of Wisconsin's veterans in both peace and conflict. Anyone interested in making a donation to the new "Fields of Honor" Military Veterans Museum should call 920-470-VETS (8387) or visit our website at www.mvmwisconsin.com