



Ohio Historical Society

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THE AMERICAN SOLDIER: A PHOTOGRAPHIC TRIBUTE To Make Its Ohio Debut at Ohio History Center

***Powerful exhibit curated by Emmy and Tony Award winner Cyma Rubin
pays tribute to the soldiers who have fought and fight for our country***

COLUMBUS—Anger and frustration, humor and beauty, camaraderie and death, victory and defeat, the journey of Americans at war runs the gamut of experiences and emotions.

An astounding new exhibit opening July 1 at the Ohio History Center, ***The American Soldier: A Photographic Tribute***, not only alters the way we think about soldiers and view war, but highlights the incalculable role in which photographers have shaped history.

Featuring images from the battlefields of the Civil War to the War in Iraq, the breathtaking exhibit of 116 enlarged photographs, which will appear in Ohio only at the Ohio History Center, is curated and produced by Emmy and Tony Award-winning Cyma Rubin who brought the popular *Capture the Moment: The Pulitzer Prize Photographs* exhibit to the Ohio History Center in 2008.

The American Soldier: A Photographic Tribute, a key component of the Ohio Historical Society's new **Let's Explore Ohio!** campaign, is sponsored by Business of Entertainment, Inc.; EADS North America, the second-largest aerospace and defense company in the world; the John B. Stetson Company; ArmorSource; Conestoga; *The Columbus Dispatch*; *Ohio Magazine*; and 104.9 The River.

Beginning with the Civil War, cameras have been notebooks for history, and the photographers who have framed images have inspired us to reflect on the sacrifices soldiers have made and are still making today in Afghanistan and Iraq. Perhaps even more remarkable is the way photographers have forever shaped the way we think about what it *means* to fight but also *why* we fight—as well as what the words courage, patriotism and justice actually mean.

Their photographs, made during the Civil War, Spanish American War, Boxer Rebellion, World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, and Afghanistan through the streets of Baghdad, clearly portray soldiers' harrowing and almost surreal challenges in situations few of us find ourselves in.

"Photography made war immediate, it made it personal, especially as soldiers began to use cameras to record their own experiences," says Sharon Dean, Director of Museum and Library Services at the Ohio Historical Society. "It was no longer just the fantasy of valor, gallantry and honor propagated by the government. War was and is messy and complicated."

Beginning with Civil War-era photographer Mathew Brady who was one of the earliest photographers to capture death on the battlefield, documentation became key to recording the "truth" of what happened as well as a tool for those who wanted to call public attention to amount of destruction and societal impact caused by that wars.

Cyma Rubin masterfully illustrates in ***The American Soldier: A Photographic Tribute***, that as the technology of photography improves through history, we receive closer and closer looks into the personal lives of soldiers.

Rubin's 4,400 square foot exhibit is divided into nine sections at the Ohio History Center. It offers visitors a chronological view of the American Soldier, beginning with photos from the Civil War.

The enlarged, exquisitely produced images of everyone from veterans to green recruits, put the viewer into a wide range of experiences soldiers are faced with in their line of duty. Some offer the visitor direct, one-on-one eye contact with the soldiers, some place the observer in intense moments of combat, and others simply say more than 1,000 words ever could. Do not miss ***The American Soldier: A Photographic Tribute*** July 1 through December 30, 2011.

ABOUT THE OHIO HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE OHIO HISTORY CENTER

Founded in 1885, the non-profit Ohio Historical Society (OHS) provides a wide array of statewide services and programs related to collecting, preserving and interpreting Ohio's history, archeology and natural history. The society has about 1.6 million items in its collections throughout its 58 sites and within its 250,000-square-foot Ohio History Center at 800 E 17th Ave. (Exit 111), Columbus, Ohio, 43211. "Let's Explore Ohio!" invites you to join the staff of OHS in digging into the stories of the people, places and times in Ohio from pre-history to right now. The Society receives a portion of its funding from the state, but relies on admission fees, memberships, grants, donations and other forms of revenue to continue to serve Ohioans in the future.

The Ohio State Museum and State Archives at the Ohio History Center, is NOW open an extra day for your convenience. The State Museum is open Wed-Sat, 10-5; Sun,

Noon -5. Archives/Library is open Wed-Sat, 10-5. Historic Preservation Office is open Mon-Fri, 9-5. For general information about the Ohio Historical Society, including admission fees, call 614.297.2300 or 800.656.6124 or visit www.ohiohistory.org
For specific information regarding the Society, contact Jane M. Mason, Director of Marketing and Communications, Ohio Historical Society: 614.297.2312.

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