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National Museum of American History

The Museum is located at 14th Street and Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily, closed December 25. Admission is free. Museum exhibition areas, performance spaces, and most rest rooms accommodate wheelchairs. For further information call 202-633-1000 (voice) or 202-357-1729 (TTY) or visit americanhistory.si.edu.

Website

http://americanhistory.si.edu/militaryhistory

Read More About It

Look for this richly illustrated companion book in the Museum store.

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AMERICANS HAVE GONE TO WAR to win their independence, expand their national boundaries, define their freedoms, and defend their interests around the globe. This exhibition examines how wars have shaped the nation’s history and transformed American society. It highlights the service and sacrifice of generations of American men and women.

The Price of Freedom

AMERICANS AT WAR
How to Use this Guide

Use this brochure to enhance your visit! In four exhibit sections—War of Independence, Civil War, World War II, and Vietnam—you will find activity stations that pose questions. Use embossing or rubbing devices there to mark your brochure and reveal the answers.

### Americans at War

**War of Independence 1775–1783**
- Americans went to war to win their independence from Great Britain.

**Wars of Expansion 1812–1902**
- Americans fought in North America and overseas to expand the nation’s territory.

**Civil War 1861–1865**
- Americans battled each other over preserving their Union and ending slavery.

**World War I 1914–1918**
- Americans reluctantly entered Europe’s “Great War” and tipped the balance to Allied victory.

**World War II 1941–1945**
- Americans joined the Allies to defeat Axis militarism and nationalist expansion.

**Cold War 1945–1989**
- Americans led Western efforts to contain Communism during the Korean War and nuclear arms race.

**Vietnam War 1956–1975**
- Americans fought a protracted and divisive war against Communist expansion in Southeast Asia.

**New American Roles 1989–Present**
- Americans fought to defend their interests against threats at home as well as abroad.

*Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs*