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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3226**

May 2, 2012

Dear Museum Director,

I am writing to invite you to become a Blue Star Museum by providing free admission to active duty military personnel and their families between Memorial Day and Labor Day. The Blue Star Museums initiative is a partnership among Blue Star Families and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Last summer there were 1,526 participating Blue Star Museums across America, from fine arts museums to science and nature centers to historical houses, which welcomed over 300,000 active military men, women, and their families. Blue Star Museums also received substantial media attention, through hundreds of stories in national and local broadcast, print, and online media, not to mention the praise from participating military families.

This year, Blue Star Museums will begin on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012 and extend through Labor Day, September 3, 2012. Any museum that is interested in signing up should complete the online registration at <http://apps.nea.gov/BlueStarSignUp/MainPage.aspx>. I believe this program would be an excellent opportunity for museums in Western New York to share their services with the many hard-working men and women throughout the region. Thank you for considering this great opportunity to honor our service men and women.

Sincerely,



Kathy C. Hochul  
Member of Congress