



Post Office Box 6228  
Leesburg, Virginia 20178

(703) 777-2414 P

(703) 777-3282 F

[morvenpark.org](http://morvenpark.org)

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2018

Contact: Elliott Davis  
[edavis@morvenpark.org](mailto:edavis@morvenpark.org)  
(703) 777-2414 x6619

### **Morven Park Announces Expanded Summer Tour Schedule and Free Admission for Military Families**

LEESBURG, VA – Just in time for summer vacations, Morven Park announces two new opportunities for Park visitors. From June 14 through August 24, the Park is offering three additional days each week to tour the Davis Mansion, the Winmill Carriage Museum, and the Museum of Hounds & Hunting. The popular historical attractions will be open Thursdays through Mondays from noon to 5 p.m., with the last tour starting at 4:00 p.m. Additionally, Morven Park is providing free admission to active duty military personnel and their families until Labor Day.

Morven Park is proud to be a part of Blue Star Museums, a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America to offer free admission to the nation's active duty military personnel and their families during the summer. NEA Chairman Jane Chu stated, "Visiting a museum is a great way to get to know a community—whether it's in your hometown or a stop on a road trip. We appreciate the enthusiasm of museums all across the country who open their doors for military and their families to spend time together and have new arts experiences." A list of participating museums nationwide is available at [arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums).

"It is an honor to share Morven Park's mansion and museums with our service men and women and their families this summer," said Sheryl Williams, Morven Park's Executive Director. "The expanded schedule provides 25 opportunities each week for our guests to discover the history of Morven Park and step back into a bygone era. Visitors are encouraged to make a day of it and bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in the gardens, hike through our two miles of woodland trails, or take a leisurely stroll through the picturesque grounds of the Park."

Visitors to the Davis Mansion will hear stories of the civic and social lives of former Virginia Governor Westmoreland Davis and his wife, Marguerite, during the first half of the 20th century. The Davises' personal items and extensive collection of arts and antiques acquired during their travels throughout the world will be described as guests pass through living areas that include a lavish entry hall, ornate drawing room, elaborate dining area, grand billiard room, and well-stocked library, as well as an expansive kitchen and charming personal quarters. After the mansion tour, visitors can discover the unique collection of horse-drawn vehicles housed in the Winmill Carriage Museum, plus the art, artifacts, and memorabilia of foxhunting found in the Museum of Hounds & Hunting. For updated tour information, visit [MorvenPark.org/Tours](http://MorvenPark.org/Tours).

#### **About Morven Park**

Morven Park is a 1,000-acre nonprofit park in Leesburg, Virginia. Known as the "Central Park" of Loudoun County, Morven Park welcomes visitors who come to enjoy exquisite scenery, formal boxwood gardens, the Morven Park International Equestrian Center, the Athletic Field Complex, the iconic Greek Revival mansion, museums, and hiking trails. For more information, or to support the Park, visit [www.MorvenPark.org](http://www.MorvenPark.org).

#### **About Blue Star Museums**

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 2,000 museums across America. The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military - Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard as well as Active Duty and Reservists, National Guardsman (regardless of status), U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Qualified members must show a Geneva Convention common access card (CAC), DD Form 1173 ID

card (dependent ID), or a DD Form 1173-1 ID card for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum. Follow Blue Star Museums on Twitter @NEAarts and @BlueStarFamily, #bluestarmuseums.

### **About the National Endowment for the Arts**

Established by Congress in 1965, the NEA is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the NEA supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. Visit [arts.gov](https://www.arts.gov) to learn more about NEA.

### **About Blue Star Families**

Blue Star Families builds communities that support military families by connecting research and data to programs and solutions, including career development tools, local community events for families, and caregiver support. Since its inception in 2009, Blue Star Families has engaged tens of thousands of volunteers and serves more than 1.5 million military family members. With Blue Star Families, military families can find answers to their challenges anywhere they are. For more information, visit [bluestarfam.org](https://www.bluestarfam.org).

###