



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Navy Pier and the USO of Illinois Celebrate Armed Forces Day - Saturday, May 18

*Navy Pier and the USO are partnering to bring Illinois military families a fun-filled day of free entertainment while witnessing a Navy Pier Operations Manager break the **GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS®** record for longest Ferris wheel ride!*

CHICAGO – Navy Pier and the United Services Organization (USO) of Illinois are proud to welcome the military families of Illinois for a celebration of Armed Forces Day on Saturday, May 18.

During the celebration, Navy Pier's own Pier Park operations manager, Clinton, will attempt to break the *GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS®* record for the *longest marathon on a fairground or theme park attraction!* While dedicating the world record attempt to the men and women of the Armed Forces, Clinton will **board the iconic Navy Pier Ferris wheel at 2:30 p.m. on Friday, May 17** and ride for more than 30 hours, with no sleep during the attempt, to *hopefully* break the record at 8:30 p.m. on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 18.

The Navy Pier Ferris wheel will be free and open to the public all night long on Friday and Saturday 10 p.m. – 10 a.m. during Clinton's attempt (a suggested \$3 donation will go to the USO). Also, guests can ride in Clinton's gondola during certain hours throughout the weekend for a minimum \$25 donation to the USO!

A spectacular Navy Pier fireworks display will light the night sky once the record is officially broken!

“I am proud to honor the military families of Illinois in celebration of Armed Forces Day at Navy Pier,” said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “On behalf of a grateful city, we recognize their sacrifice and commitment to our nation. The City of Chicago continues to celebrate the spirit of service and support veterans and enlisted members of the armed services. We salute them all.”

In addition to watching the world record breaking attempt, on **Saturday, May 18, from 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.**, Navy Pier will offer **free and discounted entertainment** to all active military men and women as well as their families! Guests can **check-in at the USO office inside Navy Pier** to receive wristbands that will entitle them to several free and discounted offers from Navy Pier vendors.

This includes **FREE rides on all Pier Park attractions** (Ferris Wheel, Wave Swinger, Mini Golf, Carousel and the Lighthouse Ride), **FREE admission to the Chicago Children’s Museum** for active military and their family members (up to 4 people), **FREE tour on Shoreline Sightseeing cruises** for active military and up to 3 family members and **FREE ride aboard Seadog for active military** and ½ off for their guests. Plus, **parking will be discounted to \$10.**

Navy Pier and the USO will formally salute the men and women who bravely serve our country in a special Armed Forces Day Salute **ceremony on Saturday, May 18 at noon** on Navy Pier’s grand staircase that will feature a military Color Guard, the Rickover Military Academy Band, the National Anthem sung by the Spirit of the USO Vocal Ensemble and keynote speaker, Brigadier General Daniel M. Krumrei, Adjutant General, Illinois National Guard.

Also, the Military Order of the Purple Heart of Illinois will present its Memorial Wall of Honor, a 40-foot long traveling exhibit that honors the service and sacrifice of Illinois Fallen Warriors.

“Navy Pier is proud to partner with the USO of Illinois as we salute the men and women of the armed forces and their families,” said Marilyn Gardner, President and CEO of Navy Pier, Inc. “We honor all the men and women who have dedicated their lives to protecting our country and we are proud to host some of these heroic service members on Armed Forces Day. “

Also in conjunction with PepsiCo, the USO of Illinois will offer military and military families free refreshments and children’s activities all day long inside their USO center at Navy Pier, as well as special Pepsi Pack gift bags to the first 250 military families who check in at the USO booth on Navy Pier’s South Dock, or in their USO center inside Navy Pier.

Featured deals and discounts for active duty, National Guard and Reserve servicemen and women will include:

- Free amusement rides for members of the military and their immediate family members. Pick up validation bracelets beginning at 10am at the USO booth on the Pier’s South Dock or at the USO center at Navy Pier.
- Navy Pier Parking - \$10 all-day parking rate for on-site parking, if available. Pick up Discounted ticket at the USO. Limited quantities available.

- Chicago Children's Museum - Free for active duty, National Guard and Reserve military and their family members (up to 4 people).
- Chicago Shakespeare Theater - \$10 off on tickets to performances May 17-19.
- Amazing Chicago's Funhouse Maze - Complimentary Admission for those wearing validation bracelets from the USO.
- SEADOG - Complimentary cruise aboard SEADOG LAKEFRONT speedboat ride and half off for their guests.
- Shoreline Sightseeing - Free Skyline Lake Tour tickets for members of the military showing valid ID, plus 3 additional free tickets; Child price for Architecture River Tour tickets for Military showing valid ID + 3 additional child price tickets.
- Harry Caray's - 20% off food for active duty, National Guard and Reserve military with valid military ID at Harry Caray's Tavern. Not valid towards tax and gratuity. Cannot be combined with any other offers. Valid May 17-19, 2013.
- Riva - Family purchase offer: purchase two (2) adult entrees, get two (2) kid entrees free.
- Margaritaville - 15% discount for active duty, National Guard and Reserve military members.
- Garrett Popcorn - Purchase a medium bag of the Chicago Mix and receive a complimentary upgrade to a large.
- Bubba Gump - Free Bubba's "Far Out" dip or a free kid's meal with the purchase of 2 adult entrees.
- Capi's - Free tiramisu or a free kid's meal with the purchase of 2 adult entrees.
- Haagen Dazs - Family of 4 regular sized waffle cones (any 2 flavor choices) for \$19.99 + tax.

For more information regarding Armed Forces Day and the world record attempt please visit us at www.navypier.com or www.facebook.com/navypier.

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NAVY PIER

A Chicago landmark since 1916, Navy Pier has evolved from a freight passenger ship docking facility to the #1 tourist attraction in the Midwest, drawing more than eight million visitors annually. Navy Pier currently encompasses more than fifty acres of parks, gardens, shops, restaurants, family attractions and exhibit facilities, making it a tourist and visitor hub. For more information, visit our website at www.navypier.com

USO OF ILLINOIS

The USO lifts the spirits of America's troops and their families. The mission of the USO is to enhance the quality of life of the U.S. Armed Forces personnel and their families and to create a cooperative relationship between U.S. military communities

and involved or supporting civilian communities. The USO of Illinois is a civilian 501(c)(3) registered non-profit, not a government agency. We are supported solely by the generosity of the American people. For more information on the USO of Illinois, please visit: www.usoofillinois.org.