



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE HOSTS
“NATIONAL HEALTH AWARENESS KICKOFF”**

WASHINGTON – The National Museum of Health and Medicine and Health Pact will host a free “National Health Awareness Kickoff” program from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the first Saturday of every month. A new topic will be highlighted each month and medical professionals and visiting members from health organizations will discuss early detection and prevention of the health issue with visitors. There will also be screening areas to have body fat analysis, blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol levels checked. National Health Awareness Kickoff is free and open to the public.

- Saturday, Jan. 4, 2003 is “Birth Defects Prevention Month”
- Saturday, Feb. 1, 2003 is “American Heart Month”
- Saturday, March 1, 2003 is “National Kidney Month”
- Saturday, April 5, 2003 is “National Foot Health Awareness Month”
- Saturday, May 3, 2003 is “National Mental Health Month”
- Saturday, June 7, 2003 is “National Safety Month”
- Saturday, July 5, 2003 is “Substance Abuse Awareness Month”
- Saturday, Aug. 2, 2003 is “Cataract Awareness Month.”
- Saturday, Sep. 6, 2003 is “Prostate Health Month”
- Saturday, Oct. 4, 2003 is “National Breast Cancer Awareness Month”
- Saturday, Nov. 1, 2003 is “American Diabetes Month”
- Saturday, Dec. 6, 2003 is “World AIDS Day”

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The National Museum of Health and Medicine, founded as the Army Medical Museum in 1862 to study and improve medical conditions during the American Civil War, is an element of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. Its specimens and artifacts were the first museum collection in the country and are currently the only in Washington, D.C. to be registered by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark. The Secretary of the Interior, who has designated only 2,340 districts, sites, buildings, and structures for listing in the National Register, selected the museum’s collection because of its “exceptional value in commemorating and illustrating the history of the United States.”

The museum is open every day except Dec. 25 from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The museum is located at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, 6900 Georgia Ave. and Elder Street, NW, Washington, D.C. The web site is www.natmedmuse.afip.org and the telephone number is 202-782-2200. Admission and parking are free.

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