

# Authors to help celebrate Army's birthday at USAHEC

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On June 14, 2013 from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. the Army Heritage Center Foundation will host Dr. Daniel Felix and David F. Manning for a book signing at the Foundation's Museum Store within the Visitor and Education Center at the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center, 950 Soldiers Drive, Carlisle.

As part of the festivities during USAHEC's Army birthday celebration, Cumberland County author Dr. Daniel Felix will be available to sign his book, *A Scout for E Company: 1944 – The Story of PFC Gene Wentz*. Felix is a long-time Pennsylvania Educator and has taught at Elizabethtown College, Shippensburg University, and Messiah College.

Based on the experiences of a Pennsylvanian who served in World War II during the Italian campaign, Felix provides a first-hand account of what the Army was like for a young draftee in the European theater. "As the World War II generation ages, we are increasingly losing the living history of those who served in the war," he said. "This is also a unique book about a young man from Pennsylvania—and how he made it through that remarkable period in history."

*A Scout for E Company: 1944* takes the reader through Pennsylvanian Gene Wentz's early years growing up in a small coal mining town in Western Pennsylvania and follows him up to the present day. The story centers on his time in the Army, but shares anecdotes of his life after he came home—and like the rest of his generation, how his Army life shaped his life back in the States.

During World War II, Wentz went to the European theater by way of Africa as one of many replacement troops in 1943. He was assigned to the 36th Infantry Division in November 1943 and was severely wounded the next spring outside Rome. The book describes his life in basic training, a gut-wrenching trip across the Atlantic, and a train ride through exotic North Africa. After landing in Naples, the story follows Wentz into battle at San Pietro, attempts to cross the Rapido River outside Cassino, and relates the slow march up Italy's boot under frigid conditions as the 36th Division slogged their way through Italy's stiff, German defensive lines.

David Manning will also be signing copies of *Global Arms of Collegiality* from the Global Arms Series, a five book set about international senior military officers-diplomats who attend school at United States Defense Universities and Command and General Staff Colleges. Manning is an International Military Historian from Lawrence, Kansas. He retired from the United States Air Force as a Master Sergeant after 24 years of service.

The Global Arms Series speaks about a "Family of Nations": learning military tactics and strategy, promoting respect, cultural understanding, and the insights to International Military relationship building and the long term partnerships that garner world peace.

Proceeds from the sale of the Global Arms Series books at this event will benefit the Wounded Warrior Project.

### ***About the Army Heritage Center Foundation***

The Military Heritage Foundation, doing business as the Army Heritage Center Foundation, is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) that, through donated support, is funding the construction of the public components of the Center—the Visitor and Education Center (VEC) and the Army Heritage Center. As the phased construction program is completed, the Foundation transfers these facilities to the Army to operate, staff, and maintain as

part of the Center. The Foundation will then focus on "margin of excellence support" to meet the needs of educational programs and other activities at USAHEC where federal funds are inadequate or unavailable.

The Foundation completed its Voices of the Past capital campaign in 2010 with the construction of Phase One of the Visitor and Education Center, a key component of the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center campus. Opened to the public on May 20, 2011, the Visitor and Education Center is the focal point for the campus, containing the first large exhibit gallery, and hosting educational activities on the USAHEC Campus.

The Foundation is now seeking grants and donations to build Phase Two of the Visitor and Education Center and to create an endowment to sustain and enhance educational programs. The Foundation's education program coordinates the National History Day in Pennsylvania, complements the Center's programs and exhibits, and is a state approved continuing education provider. The Foundation also supports and enhances USAHEC's public outreach by supporting marketing initiatives and serving as a public advocate of the Center's mission and programs. Learn more about the Foundation at [www.armyheritage.org](http://www.armyheritage.org)

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