



Museum of Chincoteague Island **People ♦ Culture ♦ Heritage**

Press Release - For Immediate Release – February 1, 2015

Suggested headline:

Heritage Weekend on Chincoteague Commemorates 70 years since WWII

Chincoteague, VA – The Museum of Chincoteague Island and the island community are launching the first-ever “Chincoteague Heritage Weekend,” and this year’s theme will be “WWII, Commemorating 70 Years.” The end of the Second World War was a time of transformation on Chincoteague. A number of island organizations are coming together to create a weekend full of events.

The Museum will re-open an updated version of its celebrated exhibit, “Chincoteague and WWII: Home Front – Front Line” on Saturday March 28, 2015. The Museum will be free to the public this weekend, 11 am to 5 pm on March 28 and 29. It will host a number of activities on the 28th, including a panel of Chincoteaguers discussing their memories of WWII, a panel of people who have donated items to the WWII exhibit sharing the stories of those items, live WWII era music, and educational activities for children.

CIAO (Chincoteague Island Arts Organization) will host a concert that harkens back to the 1940s, featuring the Delmarvelous Dolls at the Island Theater. The Island Theater itself is celebrating 70 years. It was in 1945 that a group of islanders were organizing themselves in an effort to create this time-tested island establishment. CIAO has recently been re-modeling this historic building, and hopes to showcase its efforts during Heritage Weekend.

The Chincoteague Island Theatre Company, one arm of the Chincoteague Cultural Alliance (CCA), is developing a new production that will draw on materials from the Museum’s exhibit: WWII letters and oral history interviews with islanders who remember WWII. This promises to be a locally meaningful and innovative production that will debut on Heritage Weekend.

CCA will also host a timely class on the evening of Thursday March 26, leading up to Heritage Weekend. The class is entitled, “ULTRA: Code Breaking in World War II,” and it will be taught by Jerry West of Chincoteague. West’s father, Jerry West Sr., made history when he served in WWII as a code-breaker for German correspondence.

For more information about the times and fees associated with all of these events continue to check the Museum of Chincoteague Island’s website (chincoteaguemuseum.com) or call 757-336-6117 with specific questions. The Museum will provide links to the websites of the other organizations involved in Heritage Weekend.