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**NATIONAL MUSEUM OF HEALTH AND MEDICINE PRESENTS
AWARD WINNING NATIONAL HISTORY DAY STUDENT PROJECTS**

WASHINGTON – June 5, 2007 – The nation’s top young history scholars will present their award-winning projects in a National History Day (NHD) program at the National Museum of Health and Medicine. Students selected from Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, and South Carolina will present their work, reflecting this year’s National History Day theme, “Triumph and Tragedy in History,” between 12:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. on June 14. The exhibition will be open to the public through Sept. 30, 2007.

The six students selected to present their projects at the museum are part of a larger group of more than 2,000 finalists participating in the NHD national contest at the University of Maryland June 10-14. These young historians are bringing with them the products of months of research – creative presentations in the form of research papers, dramatic performances, documentaries, and exhibits.

The projects presented at the National Museum of Health and Medicine include:

- **“Death Without Warning: The Tragedy and Triumph of the Radium Girls.”** Claire Connor of Kempton, Pa. and Ellen Underwood of Kutztown, Pa. have created an exhibit telling the story of the women dial painters who fought to bring about better work conditions and awareness of radiation hazards. The students’ research covered not only the history of the use of radium in factory equipment, but the progress of restrictions on safer work conditions and empowerment of workers, especially women factory workers.
- **“I Had a Little Birdie/ And Its Name Was Enza/ I Opened the Window and IN-FLEW-ENZA - The Nursery Rhyme That Brought Death in 1918.”** This exhibit, by Mackenzie Cushman and Emma Cahoon of Belmont, Mass., tells the story of the 1918 Influenza epidemic. In 1918, it was an outbreak of influenza would chart the future of public health regulations. The students gathered local historic accounts from their hometown of Belmont, hearing from actual victims of the epidemic that shocked the nation.
- **“Immunized or Paralyzed - Triumphs and Tragedies of the Polio Vaccine.”** This documentary by Jackie McSorley of Columbia, S.C. tells the triumphant story of the polio vaccine. Starting with the “great race” and ending with the eradication of polio from most of the countries of the world, the piece details the history of polio, the development of the vaccine, and the lives of the scientists who eventually conquered. McSorley interviewed immunologist Dr. Bellanti of Georgetown University and also included an interview with the famed Dr. Albert Sabin.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM: The National Museum of Health and Medicine was established in 1862 when U.S. Army Brig. Gen. William Alexander Hammond, the U.S. Army Surgeon General, issued orders that directed all Union Army medical officers "to collect, and to forward to the office of the Surgeon General all specimens of morbid anatomy, surgical or medical, which may be regarded as valuable; together with projectiles and foreign bodies removed, and such other matters as may prove of interest in the study of military medicine or surgery."

Today, the museum is an element of the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology [AFIP], a tri-service Army, Navy, and Air Force agency of the Department of Defense with a threefold mission of consultation, education, and research.

The museum's more than 24 million specimens and artifacts are registered by the U.S. Department of the Interior as a National Historic Landmark and it is the only museum collection in Washington, D.C. with this status 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. Docent led tours are offered to walk-in visitors at 1 p.m. on the second and fourth Saturday of each month. The web site is www.nmhm.washingtondc.museum and the telephone number is 202-782-2200. Admission and parking are free.

ABOUT NHD: More than a student competition, NHD is a campaign to change the teaching and learning of history in the nation's classrooms. The program is having an impact on education and received the Charles Frankel Prize for Public Programming from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Through publications and education programs, NHD trains teachers to move students beyond textbooks and expand their classrooms to include libraries, museums and archives. More information is available at <http://www.nhd.org>.