

For Immediate Release
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April 25, 2011

Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum to Announce Partnership with the Savannah-Chatham County Public School District

Pooler, Ga. –On **Thursday, April 28, 2011** at 11 am, a press conference will be held in the Roger A. Freeman Eighth Air Force Research Center at the Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum. Museum President Henry Skipper III and Savannah-Chatham County Public School's Superintendent Dr. Thomas Lockamy Jr. will announce the Museum's new partnership with the Savannah-Chatham County Public School District. More than 200 representatives from the school district have already undergone *CHARACTER COUNTS @* the Mighty Eighth implementation training. This training helps prepare the School District's staff to infuse *CHARACTER COUNTS!* into every element of the school day. More than just another program, *CHARACTER COUNTS! @ THE MIGHTY EIGHTH* will be a change in culture and will motivate children to grow up, doing the "right thing." **Members of the media are invited to attend this announcement. Members of the media are asked to contact Mandy Livingston in advance for access to the key speakers.**

Thunderbolt Elementary was *CHARACTER COUNTS @* the Mighty Eighth's Pilot School Program. Thunderbolt's Principal Kim Newman informed the Museum that as of February 2010 Thunderbolt Elementary had experienced 70 disciplinary suspensions in the 2009-2010 school year. This school year, at this same point in the year, Thunderbolt Elementary had experienced 2 disciplinary suspensions. She said that in addition to that, she has seen a great change in her faculty, as they now have the tools and language needed to teach the children how to make better decisions.

What IS *CHARACTER COUNTS!*? It's a brand new line up of programs for children, parents, educators, and community leaders. It's an exciting way to continue the legacy of honor and bravery of the Mighty Eighth Air Force by teaching, illustrating, and modeling Six Pillars of integrity: Trustworthiness, Respect, Responsibility, Fairness, Caring, and Citizenship. In a 1990 interview with the Museum's founder, General Lew Lyle, he stated, "We need to get these stories out to the young people. They need to know about character and the price of freedom."

In keeping with Gen. Lyle's mission for the Museum, the Mighty Eighth has had a successful character education program since opening in 1996. Over time, however, methods used to hold children's attention have evolved and the Museum felt the time was right for a more proactive approach for character education programming. Through emerging partnerships, the Museum has reached out into surrounding communities to teach a common language of "character" using the stories, experiences, and artifacts found in the Museum's unique collection.

Activated in 1942, only days after the attack on Pearl Harbor, in Savannah, GA the Eighth Air Force was a critical strike element in World War II and remains an active force today. The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum is one of the world's most powerful Museum experiences as it honors the Mighty Eighth's proud legacy by preserving the stories of courage, character and patriotism displayed by the men and women of the Eighth Air Force from World War II to present. Just minutes from Historic Savannah the Museum is located at 175 Bourne Avenue in Pooler, right off of I-95 at Exit 102. The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum is open daily from 9 AM until 5 PM. For more information, please visit www.mightyeighth.org or call 912-748-8888.

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