

## My Brothers Before Me: A Military Reunion & Retrospective

*Just 20 miles west of Chicago, DuPage County is one of the wealthiest, healthiest, and greenest counties in Illinois – offering a unique combination of sophistication and local charm. Consisting of 38 vibrant communities, where the steaks are hearty, the craft beers are locally brewed, and the people are warm and hospitable – DuPage County attracts both the business and leisure traveler.*

### Day 1

Start your day with a tour of [Cantigny Park](#), the magnificent estate of the late [Col. Robert R. McCormick](#), former publisher and editor of the Chicago Tribune. Be transported back in time to war-torn France, the Omaha beach, a German bunker and a Vietnam jungle with amazingly realistic, life-sized dioramas in the [First Division Museum](#) honoring Big Red One soldiers.

Enjoy lunch at Le Jardin in Cantigny's Visitor Center, then head to [Naper Settlement-Outdoor History Museum](#), where history comes to life at this 12-acre museum village with 30 historic structures, including a Victorian mansion, fort, chapel, one-room schoolhouse and working blacksmith and print shops. Depending on the time of year, you can catch a Civil War re-enactment at one or both of these locations.

### Day 2

Reveille is at dawn for a motor coach ride to visit the dynamic [Great Lakes Naval Training Center](#), where military training goes on 24/7. Depending on the season, you may get to witness a graduation ceremony for cadets.

Travel to Skokie where [The Illinois Holocaust Museum & Education Center](#) tells the story of the Holocaust through richly designed, interactive exhibitions that will both move and inspire you.

Head into Chicago to view the [Memorial Water Wall](#), a veterans' memorial at [Soldier Field](#), before stopping at [The Museum of Science and Industry](#) where you can step inside the U-505-the only German submarine in the United States and a national memorial to the 55,000 American sailors who gave their lives on the high seas in WWI and WWII.

Enjoy a stroll down [Chicago's Navy Pier](#), a former Navy training center that is now a hub of entertainment, activity and fun. Its giant Ferris wheel offers one of the best views in the city of Chicago's famed skyline.

### Day 3

This morning, you will tour the [Illinois Aviation Museum](#) at Bolingbrook and view the carefully restored T-2C Buckeye jet trainer aircraft and historic Nieuport 11 replica. See the ongoing restoration of a T-33 in the 6,000 square foot Hanger One. Chat with WWI Aero Builders Club members about the 3/4 scale Fokker E-III they built to fly in special museum events.

You have several options to complete your trip. Choose one or more of the following activities:

- View the Civil War exhibits at either the [DuPage County Historical Museum](#) or [Elmhurst Historical Museum](#)
- Enjoy a tour and tasting at DuPage's own [Lynfred Winery](#) or [local brewery](#)
- Hop on the [Acorn Express](#) for a tour of [The Morton Arboretum](#), a breath-taking 1,700 acres of gardens and forests