

National Gallery of Art

NEWS RELEASE

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NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART EXTENDS VIEWING OF SHAW MEMORIAL THROUGH SUNDAY, JANUARY 4, 1998

WASHINGTON, DC -- The dramatic installation of Augustus Saint-Gaudens' Memorial to Robert Gould Shaw and the Massachusetts Fifty-fourth Regiment, the monumental sculpture depicting the first African American infantry unit from the North to fight for the Union during the Civil War, has been extended and will remain on view at the National Gallery of Art through January 4, 1998. The installation closes for approximately seven months while skylights are replaced in the West Building's American galleries, and opens to the public again in the fall of 1998.

Since its public debut in the Gallery's West Building on September 21, 1997, the Shaw Memorial has been seen by more than 93,000 visitors, an average of 1,297 per day. More than 3,800 local school students have visited the memorial, which continues to be a source of inspiration for both art lovers and historians alike.

General Colin Powell's moving words from the September 16th unveiling of the memorial have been captured on The Director's Tour, a self-directed audio tour of the Gallery's greatest treasures, narrated by Director Earl A. Powell III. This version will be

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available for rental beginning December 8 near the Rotunda of the West Building, and is \$5.00 for adults and \$4.50 for senior citizens, students, and groups of ten or more. A free, illustrated brochure on the memorial is also available in Gallery 66, where the memorial is located. The Gallery Shops offer related books, videos, and other items, including a four-color poster of the Shaw Memorial, available for \$15.00, and a history of the memorial and its conservation in the publication The Shaw Memorial: A Celebration of an American Masterpiece (1997), available for \$16.95.

Completed in 1900 by one of America's greatest sculptors, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, the sculpture is on long-term loan from the National Park Service, Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site, Cornish, New Hampshire. The Shaw Memorial Project is made possible by the generous support of The Circle of the National Gallery of Art. Additional support is provided by the Shell Oil Company Foundation.

The National Gallery of Art is open every day of the year except December 25 and January 1. Admission is free. It is located on Constitution Avenue between Third and Seventh Streets, N.W., and is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For general information, call (202) 737-4215, the Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at (202) 842-6176, or visit the Gallery's Web site at <http://www.nga.gov>

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