

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

/ A collection that speaks for itself.

**For more information, contact:**

Lynn Pickerel

Marketing Manager

Office (816) 235-8009

Mobile (573) 289-7783

[pickerell@toyandminiaturemuseum.org](mailto:pickerell@toyandminiaturemuseum.org)

*High-resolution images and object details available upon request*

**NEW EXHIBIT EXPLORES MID-CENTURY GAME TOURNAMENTS**

*Playing for Keeps: The VFW Marble Tournaments, 1947-1962*

**November 2, 2017 (KANSAS CITY, MO)** – On Saturday, November 11, 2017, The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures is opening an intriguing new temporary exhibit, *Playing for Keeps: The VFW Marble Tournaments, 1947-1962*.

In the mid-twentieth century, when marble playing was at the height of its popularity, hundreds of thousands of boys across the country participated in local, state, and national tournaments sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Any boy in good standing at school could play; the tournaments invited children across all racial and economic boundaries. For the boys who took part, the tournaments offered experiences in competition, sportsmanship, and comradery that would last them a lifetime. The tournaments also gave returning World War II veterans opportunities to reconnect with their families and communities.

*Playing for Keeps* explores the personal and societal facets of the tournaments, told through the firsthand stories of the players as well as through their trophies, ribbons, and prizes. The exhibit includes a number of interactive experiences, including a regulation-size marble ring, where visitors can actually play the game.

A series of lessons this spring will teach visitors of all ages marble-playing rules, techniques, and lingo—preparing today’s “mibsters” (marble players) to “knuckle down” (position the hand to shoot) at the Kansas City Marble Tournament on June 9, 2018.

Throughout the exhibit’s fourteen months, The National Museum of Toys and Miniatures will present abundant programming related to marbles, including lectures, tours, and hands-on workshops. The first lecture will be “Meet the Experts: The VFW Marble Tournaments” on Sunday, November 12, 2-3pm, with Scott McBride. McBride is the author of a book about the VFW National Tournaments and the museum’s partner in producing *Playing for Keeps*. He will discuss the game of marbles and the stories of tournament participants.

(MORE)



*Playing for Keeps* is presented in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The exhibit will run through January 6, 2019.

### **ABOUT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF TOYS AND MINIATURES**

The National Museum of Toy and Miniatures educates, inspires, and delights adults and children through the museum's collection and preservation of toys and miniatures. Located on the University of Missouri - Kansas City campus, the museum exhibits the world's largest collection of fine-scale miniatures and one of the nation's largest collections of antique toys. For more information, call (816) 235-8000 or visit [www.toyandminiaturemuseum.org](http://www.toyandminiaturemuseum.org).

###