



MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WICHITA, Kansas — November 6, 2009 – Monday, November 9, 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. The wall was built in 1961 to separate communist East Berlin from democratic West Berlin. The wall is also referred to as the Iron Curtain because it signified the line between communism and democracy in Europe.

If you are looking for a way to commemorate the fall of the Berlin Wall and communism in Germany, the Museum of World Treasures is a great place to visit. The Wichita museum features a 12-foot tall, 4-foot wide, 4-½ ton section of the Berlin Wall on its first floor, across from its famous battling dinosaur display. The wall section is on loan to the museum from the American Overseas Schools Historical Society (<http://aoshs.wichita.edu/>).

This section of the Berlin Wall is significant. At about eye level one can see painted graffiti symbolizing a “hole” blown through the wall, with a flying kite appearing through this “hole.” Kites were one method families and friends used to communicate with one another while the wall was standing. Graffiti is only found on the “western” side of the wall due to the fact that the eastern, communist side would have been heavily guarded and secured with multiple layers of barbed wire. Unauthorized persons who attempted to approach the eastern side of the wall were typically shot by East German soldiers.

The Museum of World Treasures is fortunate to have on its team of volunteer docents an individual with extensive knowledge of the Berlin Wall. Joe Condrill is President of Overseas Brats, an organization for military dependents and overseas dependents. Condrill has been volunteering as a docent at the Museum of World Treasures since February 2006. He spent his youth in a military family attending schools overseas. Condrill attended school in Stuttgart, Germany from 1963 to 1965 and made a special trip to Berlin to see the wall while living there. “The Berlin Wall is a major symbol of the Cold War,” Condrill said. “The fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 signified the end of the Cold War.” Condrill is available to speak to visitors and answer their questions on Saturdays from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm. To celebrate the fall of the

Berlin Wall, Condroll will also be available at the museum on the anniversary of the wall's fall, Monday, November 9, from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm.

For more information on how the section of the Berlin Wall came to the Museum of World Treasures, please visit the website of the Berlin Brats Alumni Association at www.berlinbrats.org/wall.htm.

The Museum of World Treasures operates as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The museum houses several thousand artifacts from the age of the dinosaurs with a real T.rex as its main attraction as one of the most complete T.rex specimens in the world. Displays from civilizations of the Middle East, Rome and Greece include authentic Egyptian mummies and coffins. The museum's mission: To provide a gateway to the past which educates, entertains, and inspires lifelong learning. Museum hours are Monday – Saturday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm and Sunday 12:00 to 5:00 pm. Extended hours are available for special event rental. Open daily except Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter