

Sections

[News](#)
[Sports](#)
[Stripes Travel](#)
[Military Life](#)
[Opinion](#)
[UK Weekly](#)

Information

[Contact us](#)
[Stripes multimedia](#)
[Photo of the Day](#)
[Blogs](#)
[Weather](#)
[Comics](#)
[NewsPuzzle](#)
[What's Up With That?](#)
[Links](#)

Services

[Electronic Paper](#)
[Library research](#)
[Buy Stripes photos](#)
[Spotted](#)
[Stripes Lite](#)

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in the war
on terrorism
heroes

Budget woes threaten to extinguish WWI museum's eternal flame

Stars and Stripes

Stars and Stripes online edition, Tuesday, June 10, 2008

The National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Mo., has announced that its Eternal Flame, which has burned since 1919, may need to be turned off due to budget cuts.

The flame has served as a national symbol to those who served and died in the war.

Museum officials estimate annual costs of maintaining the flame at \$45,000.

A Kansas City company called Pioneer Financial Services has offered to match all business and individual contributions to keep the flame burning for the next 12 months, up to a total of \$22,500.

Donations can be made at www.SaveTheFlame.org, or on the museum's Web site at www.nwwone.org. Donations can also be mailed directly to the museum at 100 W. 26th St. Kansas City, MO 64108. Checks should be made payable to the "National World War I Museum", with "Save the Flame" on the memo line.