



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

About the Commission

The Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission (the Commission) was created by the General Assembly during its 2016 Regular Session. The Commission is led by Speaker M. Kirkland Cox, Chair, and Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr., Vice-Chair, and members of the General Assembly, including Delegate Gordon C. Helsel, Jr., Delegate Timothy D. Hugo, Senator Bryce E. Reeves, and Delegate Marcus Simon. The Commissioner of the Department of Veterans Services, the Executive Director of the Virginia War Memorial, and noted historians also serve on the Commission.

Virginia's WWI and WWII Commemoration

The Commission, in its third year, continued to plan, develop, and carry out programs and observances to mark the 100th anniversary of World War I (WWI) and the 75th anniversary of World War II (WWII). The Commission's work is guided by its purposes to:

Honor our veterans, whose sacrifices can never be forgotten, and, in doing so, communicate to today's service members that they will be remembered.

Inspire a desire to learn more by providing opportunities for Virginians to explore personal connections to WWI and WWII and by highlighting multiple aspects of the state's role in both wars.

Connect through travel and tourism by helping visitors to connect to museums, memorials, and sites in Virginia related to WWI and WWII.

An update on the Commission's 2018 commemorative programs, events, and initiatives follows.

I. Armistice Day 100th Anniversary Commemoration

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, the Commission partnered with the Virginia War Memorial and the Virginia Department of Veterans Services to host the Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony and the Armistice Day Festival in Richmond on Sunday, November 11, 2018. The event, which drew more than 1,500 attendees, began with a bell-tolling at 11:00 a.m. at the Carillon in coordination with the national World War One Centennial Commission's Bells of Peace effort. Bells rang statewide and nationwide at 11:00 a.m., marking the official end of the war. Carillonneur Ryland Bailey, Jr., tolled the Carillon's bells.

Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony

The annual Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony immediately followed the bell-tolling and was held in the Dogwood Dell Amphitheater. The ceremony featured a presentation of the colors from the Virginia National Guard's WWI "Doughboy" Color Guard, music from the 392nd Army Band, student essay readings, and remarks from dignitaries, including:



The Virginia National Guard's "Doughboy" Color Guard presents the colors.

Photo courtesy of the Department of Veterans Services

The Honorable Ralph S. Northam, Governor of Virginia

The Honorable M. Kirkland Cox, Speaker of the Virginia House of Delegates and Chair of the Commission

The Honorable Carlos Hopkins, Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs

Dr. Clay Mountcastle, Director of the Virginia War Memorial

Armistice Day Festival

The afternoon Armistice Day Festival took place in and around the Carillon, next to the Dogwood Dell Amphitheater, following the Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony. The Carillon, Virginia's memorial to the 3,700 Virginians who died in WWI, has been undergoing restoration by the Department of General Services for the WWI centennial and was opened to the public for the first time since restoration began. Museums, historic sites, and organizations from around the state brought exhibits and information to display inside the Carillon.

Participating partners:

Carillon Civic Association
Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Department of General Services
Department of Veterans Services
Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum
Genealogical Research Institute of Virginia
Local antique toy collectors
Maymont
WWI & WWII Profiles of Honor Scanning
Richmond Discoveries
VCU Virtual Curation Lab 3D Scanning
Virginia Museum of Fine Arts
Virginia Veterans Services Foundation
Virginia War Memorial



Attendees view WWI student art and museum exhibits inside the Carillon.

Photos courtesy of the Department of Veterans Services



President and Mrs. Wilson greet the crowd in front of the Carillon.

Photo courtesy of the Department of Veterans Services

The afternoon program featured a presentation from President Woodrow Wilson and First Lady Edith Bolling Wilson, played by Jim Gearhart and Betsy Ely from the Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum in Wytheville. Following the presentation, Speaker Kirk Cox, Delegate Betsy Carr, and Department of Veterans Services Commissioner John L. Newby II presented awards to student finalists and winners in the WWI Armistice Art Contest. The contest, open to all elementary, middle, and high school students in Virginia, was held by the Commission in partnership with the Virginia War Memorial, and students' WWI-themed art submissions were on display inside the Carillon.

The afternoon also featured crafts and games, music from St. Andrew's Legion Pipe and Drums, a bell concert from carillonneur Larry Robinson, an antique car display, and food trucks. The Commission's *Profiles of Honor Tour* was open for visitors through the afternoon.

Richmond Symphony Armistice Centennial Concert

The Commission also partnered with the Richmond Symphony to present *Brahms Requiem, Barber Adagio: Commemorating the Centennial of Armistice 1918* at the Dominion Energy Center for the Performing Arts in Richmond. Commemorative concerts were held on Saturday, November 10, and Sunday, November 11, 2018. The Richmond Symphony displayed student artwork from the WWI Armistice Art Contest at the Saturday concert.

II. Profiles of Honor Tour



The Profiles of Honor Tour visits the National Museum of the Marine Corps on June 6, 2018.

In 2018, the Commission's *Profiles of Honor Tour* brought its interactive WWI and WWII exhibit to 30 tour stops in 24 different localities in Virginia. In its visits to schools, museums, libraries, historic sites, and local events, the mobile exhibit reached more than 11,500 visitors, including nearly 3,500 students. In total, the exhibit has reached 33,400 visitors since it first opened to the public on December 8, 2016.

The *Profiles of Honor Tour* brings to life Virginia's integral role in both world wars, highlighting the stories of Virginians who served in WWI and WWII along with artifacts relating to both wars. The exhibit includes a full-scale model of an M5A1 Stuart tank, visible from the trailer's exterior. The full exhibit is housed in a 36-foot gooseneck trailer and towed by a Chevrolet Silverado. The Commission partners with Virginia Tourism Corporation and the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles to staff the tour.

Applications for tour stops are accepted on a rolling basis, with priority given to sites that the tour has not yet visited. An abbreviated 2019 tour schedule is in development, and the tour will run through June 30, 2019, when the Commission's lease on the tour vehicle expires.

III. WWI and WWII Legacy Scanning Project: Document Digitization and Access



WWI photograph of Pvt. Howard White, scanned in Stafford.

The WWI and WWII Legacy Scanning Project was created in partnership with the Library of Virginia (LVA) to identify, scan, and catalog documents related to WWI and WWII. LVA provides technical and content management support for the project, which collects documents and information to be archived and made publicly accessible. The project held its first scanning event on December 8, 2016, and has traveled with the *Profiles of Honor Tour* throughout 2017 and 2018, allowing visitors to the tour to digitally preserve their historic photos and documents. Mobile tour staff facilitates collection of the scans.

To provide immediate public access to the documents, *Profiles of Honor Tour* staff uploads scans, along with information provided by the documents' owners, to a gallery on the Commission's website. More than 4,500 scans have been collected during the course of the project. The Commission also archives images received via online submissions. For permanent archival in the state's library, all scans are given to LVA. The scanning project will continue to travel independently after the mobile tour ends.

IV. 2018 WWI and WWII Statewide Teacher Symposiums

In the summer, the Commission offered WWI and WWII teacher symposiums in four locations across the state. The programs, open free to teachers in Virginia, featured presentations from the 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation, the Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum, the Library of Virginia, the MacArthur Memorial, the Military Aviation Museum, the National D-Day Memorial, the National Museum of the Marine Corps, and the U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum. Presenters shared WWI and WWII historical background and resources, and host museums opened their exhibits to attendees. The symposiums also featured sessions on best teaching practices, led by 2018 Virginia Teacher of the Year Michelle Cottrell-Williams and award-winning educators Lisa Gibson and Jim Triesler. The Virginia Department of Education assisted in planning and promoting the programs.

Symposiums took place throughout July, and more than 100 teachers attended:

Heartwood

Abingdon, Virginia

Tuesday, July 10, 2018

U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum

Fort Lee, Virginia

Tuesday, July 17, 2018

Military Aviation Museum

Virginia Beach, Virginia

Tuesday, July 24, 2018



Teachers learn about WWI and WWII classroom resources at the U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum.

National Museum of the Marine Corps

Triangle, Virginia

Tuesday, July 31, 2018

The four symposiums in 2018 followed eight teacher symposiums held in summer of 2017 in Bedford, Clifton Forge, Farmville, Fredericksburg, Norfolk, Richmond, Winchester, and Wytheville, reaching each of Virginia's eight Superintendent's Regions. The Commission will hold two final teacher symposiums in 2019, partnering again with organizations across the state to provide teachers with in-depth background on WWI and WWII and new resources for the classroom.

V. Virginia Military Institute WWI Symposium



Speaker Kirk Cox gives remarks at VMI's WWI symposium.

On April 27 and 28, 2018, the Virginia Military Institute Center for Leadership and Ethics hosted a WWI commemorative symposium in partnership with the Commission. The two-day program in Lexington focused on leadership at varying levels of war, with panel discussions examining presidential wartime command, generalship at the operational level, and Doughboy citizen-soldier tactical leadership, as well as Virginia's contributions to the war effort. The program featured panel discussions and lectures from nationally recognized American WWI scholars:

Al Barnes, Historian, Virginia Army National Guard

Rob Dallessandro, Acting Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission

Col. Keith Gibson, Executive Director, Virginia Military Institute Museum

Col. David R. Gray, Ph.D., Director, Virginia Military Institute Center for Leadership and Ethics

Dr. Kelly Jordan, Author and Military Historian

Dr. Jennifer Keene, President, Society of Military History

Dr. Edward G. Lengel, Chief Historian, White House Historical Association

Dr. Williamson Murray, Chair of Strategic Studies, Marine Corps University

Dr. Michael S. Neiberg, Chair in War Studies, U.S. Army War College

Lt. Col. Eric Osborne, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Virginia Military Institute

Dr. Lynn Rainville, Acting Dean, Sweet Briar College

Dr. David Woodward, Author and Military Historian

Attendees also toured the George C. Marshall Museum and the Virginia Military Institute Museum, and the Commission's *Profiles of Honor Tour* was onsite and open for visitors.

VI. Virginia WWI and WWII Tourism Marketing Program Grants

The Virginia WWI and WWII Tourism Marketing Program, administered by the Virginia Tourism Corporation in collaboration with the Commission, completed two rounds of grants in 2018. Grants are designed to assist communities and WWI or WWII-related sites in marketing commemorative events and destinations. Funds are available on a 1:1 matching basis with a maximum award per grant of \$10,000.

To date, 31 grants have been awarded in six rounds, the first of which opened in 2016. Grant awards total \$156,304.50 and have been matched by \$406,088.25 from 111 partners. Currently, \$43,695.50 remains available in the Commission's grant fund. A seventh and final round of grants will open in early 2019.

Grant recipients from 2018 follow.

1. Lead partner: Virginia Museum of History and Culture

Project name: *One War, Three Destinations, Countless Remarkable Stories: Visit Richmond to learn more about life during WWI at Maymont, the Library of Virginia, and the Virginia Museum of History and Culture*

Award amount: \$10,000; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$10,372

Summary: During July and August, the Virginia Museum of History and Culture partnered with Maymont and the Library of Virginia to promote each organization's WWI exhibitions to out-of-state and out-of-town tourists using welcome center banners and targeted digital marketing campaigns.

2. Lead partner: Town of Marion

Project name: *Marion Goes to War: A Small Town World War Memorial Day Commemoration*

Award amount: \$6,500; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$6,500

Summary: This project expands the programs, offerings, and overall regional marketing for the anniversary commemorations of WWI and WWII through Marion's existing Memorial Day program by providing enhanced regional marketing and allowing for expansion of programs and activities.

3. Lead partner: Military Aviation Museum

Project name: *Summer of Flight*

Award amount: \$10,000; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$10,000

Summary: The Military Aviation Museum's *Summer of Flight* is a season-long celebration of the history of military aviation, particularly focusing on WWI and WWII, which highlights an aircraft each week, allowing guests to receive personal tours, lectures, and flight demonstrations for the featured plane.

4. Lead partner: 116th Infantry Regiment Foundation, Inc.

Project name: *World War II Heritage Alliance: Operation Kilroy*

Award amount: \$4,000; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$4,000

Summary: The members of the Virginia World War II Heritage Alliance are creating a visitation program entitled Operation Kilroy, encouraging tourism to WWII sites across the Commonwealth.

5. Lead partner: Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Foundation

Project name: *Allied Dinners Marketing & Advertising Support*

Award amount: \$2,000; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$2,000

Summary: The Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Foundation and project partners requested funds to advertise for the "Allied Dinners," a programmatic dinner and lecture series in the summer and fall at the Bolling Wilson Hotel. The events featured a three-course meal and short presentation on four of the Allied Nations in World War I: Great Britain, Italy, Russia, and France. The partners aim to position Downtown Wytheville as a cultural destination for certain audiences within an hour's drive and increase awareness and participation in the event.

6. Lead partner: The Mariner's Museum and Park

Project name: *Answering America's Call: Newport News in World War I*

Award amount: \$5,250; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$5,250

Summary: On Saturday, May 19, 2018, The Mariners' Museum and Park opened "Answering America's Call: Newport News in World War I." The exhibition and related programs were designed to create a better understanding of the roles that the community played during WWI and how this event helped to single-handedly transform the landscape of Newport News and the shipbuilding industry.

7. Lead partner: National D-Day Memorial Foundation

Project name: *75th Anniversary of D-Day*

Award amount: \$9,875; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$12,675

Summary: The National D-Day Memorial is beginning early advertising of its site for 2019, the 75th anniversary year of D-Day, a year in which the eyes of the nation will turn to Bedford's commemorative activities.

8. Lead partner: George C. Marshall International Center

Project name: *The Fourteenth Annual Veterans Day Commemoration at the Marshall House*

Award amount: \$868.50; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$14,904.75

Summary: Marketing funding for the 2018 Veterans Day Commemoration allowed for the creation of print flyers, programs, and advertisements to increase attendance to the event honoring the sacrifices made by veterans and preserving the legacy of WWII.

9. Lead partner: Virginia Arts Festival

Project name: *Virginia International Tattoo Examines the Legacy of WWI and WWII in a Celebration of Women in the Military*

Award amount: \$10,000; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$25,554.50

Summary: The 2019 Virginia International Tattoo will feature and commemorate the service of women in WWI and WWII. Grant funding will be used to leverage the theme and content of the 2019 event, to increase visitation to Virginia, and to educate tens of thousands of Virginians on the impact and legacy of WWI and WWII, particularly through the lens of women in the military.

10. Lead partner: National D-Day Memorial Foundation

Project name: *D-Day Anniversary 2019*

Award amount: \$10,000; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$10,500

Summary: The National D-Day Memorial Foundation continues to market the site for 2019, the 75th anniversary year of D-Day, a year in which the eyes of the nation will turn to Bedford's commemorative activities.

11. Lead partner: Military Aviation Museum

Project name: *Snoopy and the Red Baron Exhibit*

Award amount: \$10,000; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$10,000

Summary: From July 21 through October 14, 2018, the Military Aviation Museum displayed *Snoopy and the Red Baron*, a traveling exhibition on loan from the Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center celebrating one of Snoopy's most recognized personas. The exhibit aimed to teach about this *Peanuts* storyline using high-quality reproductions of original comic strips and highlight the rich WWI history Schulz used in nearly every strip.

VII. Continuing Statewide Initiatives

In addition to providing matching funds through the WWI and WWII Tourism Marketing Program, the Commission supports local organizations by promoting statewide programming and working with Virginia Tourism Corporation to make the public aware of the Commission's work and that of its partners.

The Commission maintains communication with the public through an active social media presence, email newsletters, and the Commission's comprehensive and frequently updated website, www.VirginiaWWIandWWII.org. The site features information on the Commission and its programs, an interactive map of places to visit in Virginia related to WWI and WWII, and a Statewide Calendar of Events highlighting programs hosted by local organizations, among other features. Commission staff regularly travels to meet and collaborate with local partners. WWI and WWII Commission signage is in place at welcome centers across Virginia, and rack cards and window clings are regularly distributed to promote the commemoration. Partners can also apply for use of the Commission's logo to aid in promoting local WWI and WWII initiatives.

In 2016, WWI and WWII commemorative coins were minted and distributed to 80 living veterans of WWII at the Commission's event commemorating U.S. entry into WWII, *Dawn of Infamy*, on December 8. Commission members and staff, on behalf of the Commission, continue to distribute coins to veterans and to those who contribute significantly to the commemoration of WWI and WWII, with gratefulness for their service.

Looking Ahead

The Commission will continue its commemoration by marking significant anniversaries and hosting programs examining history that spans both wars.

The Final Salute: 75th Anniversary of D-Day

The National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, in partnership with the Commission, will host a major event to mark 75th anniversary of D-Day in June 2019. Bedford, which suffered the highest per capita losses on D-Day, will be the site of extensive commemorative programming and a major gathering of WWII veterans. Over the course of five days, visitors will be invited to participate in a D-Day parade, tours of the D-Day Memorial, living history exhibits, and a commemorative observance. The observance on June 6, 2019, will feature an aerial tribute, a wreath-laying, remarks from dignitaries, and a WWII veteran roll call. The *Profiles of Honor Tour* will be onsite during the events in its final month of touring.

2019 WWI and WWII Statewide Teacher Symposiums

In the summer of 2018, the Commission, in partnership with museums and historic sites across the state, will host two final teacher symposiums dedicated to exploring history and classroom resources related to WWI and WWII.

A Better World Shall Emerge: 75th Anniversary of the End of WWII

The Commission will partner with the MacArthur Memorial, the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, the Military Aviation Museum, and Nauticus to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the signing of the surrender documents that ended WWII. The Japanese surrender documents were signed on September 2, 1945, aboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay. To commemorate the anniversary, a ceremony will be held on September 2, 2020, aboard the USS *Wisconsin*, a battleship of the same class as the USS *Missouri*, which is docked in Norfolk at Nauticus. The ceremony will be livestreamed and will feature readings from MacArthur's speech and a flyover in Missing Man formation. The ship's horn will blow at 9:08 a.m. to mark the exact moment of the signing, followed by a moment of silence in memory of those who died in WWII. Following the ceremony, a panel discussion, "A World Profoundly Changed," will take place in the Nauticus Theater, exploring the WWII generation and its legacy.

Additional programming and initiatives include:

- Continuation of the *Profiles of Honor Tour* through June 30, 2019
- Continuation WWI and WWII Legacy Scanning Project
- A final round of the Virginia WWI and WWII Tourism Marketing Program
- Programs and events throughout the state continually posted on the Statewide Calendar of Events (www.VirginiaWWIandWWII.org/events), sponsored by local committees, museums, foundations, and historical societies

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