

**VIRGINIA WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION
COMMISSION**

The Honorable M. Kirkland Cox, Chairman
Meeting Summary
July 13, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Members present: Delegate M. Kirkland Cox (chair); Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. (vice-chair); Delegate Richard L. Anderson; Senator Bryce Reeves, Delegate Marcus Simon; Clay Mountcastle; BG John Mountcastle (USA, Ret.); John L. Newby II.

Chairman Cox called the meeting of the Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission (Commission) to order.

WWI and WWII Tourism Marketing Grant Recommendations

Steve Galyean, Virginia Tourism Corporation

The third round of grants yielded two applications, both of which were presented with recommendation to approve:

1. Lead partner: William King Museum of Art

Project name: *Remembering World War I in Southwest Virginia*

Award amount: \$5,000; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$5,000

Summary: The funding will supplement William King Museum of Art's marketing of two companion exhibitions set to open in September of this year: *The Great War - Printmakers of World War I* (on loan from the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts); and *In the Trenches*, a collection of WWI memorabilia, including uniforms, helmets, mess kits, letters, and trench art.

2. Lead partner: Middlesex County Museum

Project name: *Heroes of Middlesex County*

Award amount: \$1,500; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$1,500

Summary: The project will honor three distinguished veterans of Middlesex County: Beryl Newman, George Taylor, and Chesty Puller, telling their stories through a series of three to five videos, oral histories, posters, and exhibits at Museums of Middlesex, along with an ongoing social media campaign (graphics, memes, imagery, and screenshots from the videos).

Senator Ruff moved to accept the recommendations as presented. Delegate Anderson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

To date, 18 grants have been awarded, totaling \$63,956, which has been matched by \$280,727 from 62 partners. The next round opens in mid-July and closes in September.

The grant review committee recommended increasing grants to \$10,000 to increase participation while still ensuring that smaller museums would be competitive. Senator Ruff moved to increase the next round of grants to \$10,000. Delegate Anderson seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Staff report

Cheryl Jackson, Executive Director

Ms. Jackson provided updates on a number of programs:

Logo requests

Commission staff recommended approval of all eight applications received since the last meeting, for use of the Commission's logos in promoting local WWI and WWII initiatives.

BG Mountcastle moved to approve the logo requests. The motion was seconded by Delegate Anderson and passed unanimously.

Profiles of Honor Tour

Ms. Jackson updated the Commission on the *Profiles of Honor Tour*, which began its statewide tour in early March. To date, it has participated in 31 events across 25 localities and served as the centerpiece for several commemorative ceremonies for WWII veterans. Altogether, 10,784 visitors have toured the exhibit, and there are nearly 20 more events scheduled through the remainder of the year. Applications to host the *Profiles of Honor Tour* for 2018 are due by October 1.

More than 2,200 documents have been scanned at Profiles of Honor events, and staff has created a Flickr album to provide quicker access to images (www.flickr.com/virginiawwiandwwii/). Documents will still be transferred to the Library of Virginia for archiving, but the scope of the archival process is being redefined.

WWI and WWII Statewide Teacher Symposium

The WWI and WWII Statewide Teacher Symposium began on June 27 and will continue through the end of July. Altogether, 15 museums and historic organizations are participating at eight locations across the state.

Each program includes a WWI morning overview and WWI breakout sessions, a WWII afternoon overview and WWII breakout sessions, and a tour of a local museum. Sessions have been held in Wytheville, Clifton Forge, Norfolk, and Richmond. Symposiums in the coming weeks will be held in Bedford, Farmville, Winchester, and Fredericksburg.

Events marking the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entry into WWI

On April 6, 2017, the Commission held a commemorative program at the Richmond Carillon, with keynote speaker Dr. Lynn Rainville, to mark the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entry into WWI. In addition, the Commission partnered with the Virginia National Guard (VNG) to present the WWI Speaker Series, held at locations across the state. The VNG, in partnership with the Commission, presented the Military Ball of Virginia on April 29, 2017, to mark the centennial anniversary. The event included a WWI "Doughboy" Color Guard in full dress

uniform, the presentation of a commemoration from the Virginia General Assembly, and a keynote address by COL Roger Donlon (USA, Ret.).

Battle of Midway 75th anniversary symposium and Navy events

On June 2, 2017, the MacArthur Memorial, Hampton Roads Naval Museum, and Commission partnered to present "The Tide Turns: Battle of Midway 75th Anniversary Symposium." Speakers included Elliot Carlson, Anthony Tully, Walter Borneman, and Timothy Orr. The program drew nearly 150 attendees and was covered live on CSPAN. An invitation-only evening reception followed for members of the U.S. military, board members from the Hampton Roads Naval Museum and MacArthur Memorial, Commission members, NATO representatives, local and state representatives, and representatives of the Cities of Norfolk and Virginia Beach.

On Monday, June 4, Commander, Naval Air Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet hosted a commemoration of the Battle of Midway at the Virginia Beach oceanfront, in partnership with the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, the Virginia Beach Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and other organizations. The event included a flyover by F/A-18 Super Hornets.

In Development

Ms. Jackson outlined programs in development and requested further guidance from the Commission. After discussion, members agreed to the following events:

100th Anniversary of the End of World War I /Armistice Day /Veterans Day

(November 11, 2018)

The Commission will hold a major event at the State Capitol to mark the centennial of the end of World War I, in partnership with the Virginia War Memorial (which hosts the Commonwealth's Veterans Day event annually), the Department of Veterans Services, the Virginia Historical Society, and partner museums across the state. Events will include talks, living history, music, and museum displays.

75th Anniversary of D-Day (June 6, 2019)

The Commission will partner with the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford to sponsor the annual commemoration of the D-Day landing on Omaha Beach. Events will include a commemorative ceremony for veterans.

75th Anniversary of the End of World War II / Signing of Surrender Documents

(September 2, 2020)

The Commission will join with the MacArthur Memorial, Hampton Roads Naval Museum, and other partners to host a commemorative ceremony on the USS *Wisconsin* to mark the 75th anniversary of the signing of the surrender documents that ended World War II for the United States. The ceremony will begin with a reception on Tuesday, September 1, at the MacArthur Memorial, and a symposium on the lasting legacies of the war will follow the commemorative ceremony on Wednesday, September 2.

Other business

The next meeting of the Commission will be held on October 11 at 10:00 a.m. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.