



# ARMISTICE SIGNED



The Virginia Profiles of Honor Mobile Tour

## Commemorating Virginia's role in the 'War to End All Wars'



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The Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission, led by Speaker of the House Kirk Cox, was created in 2014 by the Virginia General Assembly to plan, develop, and carry out programs and activities to commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War I and the 75th anniversary of World War II. Since its inception, the Virginia WWI and WWII Commemoration Commission has been honored to partner with some of the Commonwealth's greatest historians and museums, and host dozens of ceremonies recognizing the role of Vir-

ginia and her veterans statewide.

As part of these robust programs, the commission created the Profiles of Honor Mobile Tour, a mobile museum that brings the stories of WWI and WWII to communities and towns across the state. Since its debut in December 2016, tens of thousands of visitors and students have been able to get up close with history. At the same time, the Virginia WWI and WWII Commemoration Commission partnered with the Library of Virginia to begin collecting and preserving the stories of Virginia's WWI and WWII veterans. Thousands of photographs, letters, and documents that help paint the picture of Virginia at war have been added to the library's archives, their stories pre-

served for generations to come.

In April 2017, the Virginia WWI and WWII Commemoration Commission held a ceremony at the World War I Memorial Carillon in Byrd Park observing the 100th anniversary of the U.S. entry into World War I. This year, in conjunction with the Commonwealth's Veteran's Day ceremony (held at the same location) on Nov. 11, the commission will mark the historic 100th anniversary of Armistice Day. For those in attendance, it will be an extraordinary event. For all those who are remembering our history on this day, this special section brings to life the role of Virginia in WWI, and honors the men and women who served in the conflict.

COURTESY VIRGINIA WWI AND WWII COMMEMORATION COMMISSION  
WWI section of the interior of the The Virginia Profiles of Honor Mobile Tour.

## WWI quick facts

- WWI, also known as the "Great War," took place between 1914 and 1918.
- The United States entered the war on April 6, 1917.
- 4.5 million men served in the U.S. Armed Forces in WWI. Of these, approximately 370,000 were African American and 800,000 were foreign-born.
- U.S. war casualties numbered 116,000 dead; 224,000 wounded, with Virginia's war dead at just over 3,700.



For more information, please visit [www.VirginiaWWIandWWII.org](http://www.VirginiaWWIandWWII.org)



# WWI in Virginia

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Dean of the College, Sweet Briar College

One hundred years ago, Nov. 11, 1918, the headline on the front page of the Richmond Times-Dispatch read, “Armistice Signed.” At six o’clock that Monday morning the hostilities officially ended. The paper was quick to point out that it would take quite some time before the soldiers would come home, and that the men who were drafted that very day, November 11, would still be expected to serve until the peace terms were officially ratified. The next day, Virginia draft boards received a notice from the Adjutant General to stop sending draftees off to the training camps; the process of demobilization had begun.

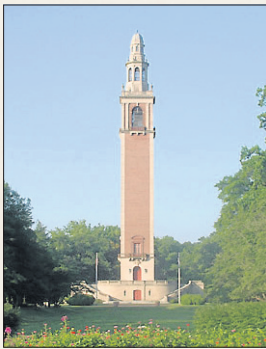
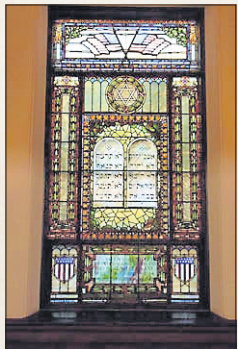
Hundreds of thousands of Virginians contributed to the war effort, through military and civilian service. Doctors and nurses cared for troops in Tidewater hospitals and in base hospitals along the western front. School children planted “victory gardens” to conserve domestic food resources, while Salvation Army “Donut Lassies” handed out refreshments to troops in France. Meanwhile, the citizens in Hampton Roads built and repaired ships, protected the harbors from German submarines, and loaded hundreds of thousands of tons of cargo, animals, and troops to send across the Atlantic and back again.

Other war-time contributions included Boy Scouts who sold liberty bonds, female factory workers who packed artillery shells at the Penniman plant in Williamsburg, and men too old for the draft who volunteered as “four minute” men to give patriotic speeches in movie theaters. In the end, almost 100,000 Virginians were drafted; tens of thousands trained in one of the state’s camps and served in a combination of roles at home and abroad.

Over 3,700 Virginians lost their lives during the war; many more were wounded, and some returned as amputees or with a severe case of shell shock (PTSD). As Virginians welcomed the survivors back, many communities began fundraising and designing war memorials to commemorate their service and sacrifice. Over the next two decades, most counties and cities in the commonwealth erected at least one war memorial and many renamed local sites with honorific titles, such as “Liberty Street” in Staunton, “Victory Hall” in Scottsville, “Argonne Circle” in Roanoke, or “Memorial Gymnasium” at the University of Virginia. Today, these statues, stained glass windows, and place names remind us of the sacrifices of Virginians a century ago.



COURTESY VIRGINIA WAR MUSEUM

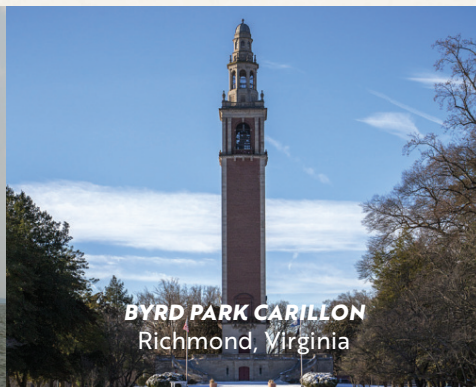


COURTESY STEPHEN MILLER AND BETH O'LEARY

Above, Victory Arch that greeted the armed forces as they returned home, Newport News. A temporary arch was dedicated on April 13, 1919; today's permanent arch was rededicated on May 30, 1962. Bottom, left to right, Memorial window in the Beth Ahabah Synagogue, Richmond. The official State WWI Memorial: the Virginia War Memorial Carillon. It was designed by the firm of Cram and Ferguson, and dedicated in 1932.



**JAMES RIVER RESERVE FLEET**  
Newport News, Virginia



**BYRD PARK CARILLON**  
Richmond, Virginia



**VICTORY ARCH**  
Newport News, Virginia

**VIRGINIA  
IS FOR  
HISTORY  
LOVERS**



# The Men and Women of the First World War

As WWI raged across Europe, President Woodrow Wilson championed the need to make the world “safe for democracy.” Americans everywhere responded, ready to serve their country. Thousands of men and women from across the Commonwealth of Virginia answered the call, and here we highlight some of their stories, in order to pay tribute to all those who served. These items were scanned by the Virginia WWI and WWII Commemoration Commission, and are now part of the WWI collection at the Library of Virginia. If you would like to learn more about these stories, and hundreds of others like them, visit [www.VirginiaWWIandWWII.org/scanning](http://www.VirginiaWWIandWWII.org/scanning)



## Jesse Veale Reed Nelson County



Reed served in the U.S. Army during World War I, and was a 1st Lieutenant with Headquarters Company, 116th Regiment, of the 29th Division. He was killed in action in the Argonne Forest, Oct. 15,

1918. (Courtesy of Samantha Embrey)

## Virginus Douglas Johnston Petersburg



A graduate of Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute (now VSU) in 1913, he became one of five graduates to be a commissioned officer in the 92nd “Buffalo Soldier” Division during World War I. Johnston and his soldiers were deployed to the front lines in August 1918, seeing action in the Meuse-Argonne Offensive. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery. (Courtesy of VSU, and The Great War and Virginia Normal and Industrial Institute)

## Edith Bolling Wilson Wytheville



Leading by example, first lady Edith Bolling Wilson volunteered with the Red Cross, sewing clothing for service members and feeding soldiers who passed through Washington ports in WWI.

She famously brought in sheep to graze on the White House lawn, freeing gardeners for wartime duties, and then auctioned the wool to bring in \$100,000 for the Red Cross. (Courtesy of the Edith Bolling Wilson Birthplace Museum)

## Robert Lee Jones Callands



Jones served with the 808th Pioneer Infantry in WWI. He and his unit served with the First Army at the Meuse-Argonne Offensive from September to November 1918. Despite surviv-

ing the war and returning home, Pvt. Jones died in 1933 due to long-term side effects of gas poisoning during the war. (Courtesy of Sheila Carrington)

## Phoebe S. Life Rockingham County



Phoebe Life served as a Red Cross nurse during World War I, treating wounded soldiers and keeping a diary of the day-to-day life of a nurse in wartime. She was the wife of Millard Life, who

served in the U.S. Army during the war as well. (Courtesy of Tammy S. Coulter)

## Charles Law Watkins Manassas



When WWI began in Europe, Watkins volunteered and joined the French Ambulance Corps in 1916. Later, he served with French Artillery Corps, and was awarded the Croix de Guerre. While overseas, he drew many scenes he witnessed on the battlefield. Afterward, Watkins taught at American University in Washington, D.C. (Courtesy of Alan Giese)

## Hyacinth Pianalto Petersburg



Hyacinth Pianalto immigrated to the United States from Italy in 1896. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1917, returning to Europe to serve alongside his new country during WWI. Seeing

action in three major battles, he was not physically injured, but was gassed in combat. After the conflict had ended, on the day of his discharge from service, Pianalto received his Certificate of Nationalization. (Courtesy of Al Pianalto)

## Harold E. Gates Berryville



Gates (pictured left, with his brother) served with the 6th Regiment, 3rd Battalion, 6th U.S. Marines in World War I. Gates saw action at the Battle of Belleau Wood, and received two Purple Hearts, a

Bronze Star Medal, and the Croix de Guerre. He was an expert marksman and rifleman, and was one of three surviving men of the 6th U.S. Marines. (Courtesy of Allan Gates)

## John Bogle Henderson Thessalia



Henderson served in Co. O, of the U.S. Army's 22nd Engineers in Europe during WWI. After surviving some of the most intense fighting of the war, Henderson wrote

his family to let them know he was excited to finally come home. Sadly, the reunion would not happen as he was struck and killed by a passing train while on his way to board the return ship home. (Courtesy of Lisa Swope)

