

VIRGINIA WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION COMMISSION
The Honorable M. Kirkland Cox, Chairman
Meeting Summary
October 11, 2017
10:00 a.m.

Members present: Delegate M. Kirkland Cox (chair); Delegate Richard L. Anderson; Charles F. Bryan, Jr.

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

Angela Wiggins, Virginia Tourism Corporation

In its fourth round of grants, the WWI and WWII Tourism Marketing Grant program yielded two applications, both of which were presented with recommendation to approve:

1. **Lead partner: National D-Day Memorial Foundation**

Project name: *74th Anniversary of D-Day: Conference and Commemoration*

Award amount: \$8,855; Amount of match from recipient and partners: \$8,855

Summary: The National D-Day Memorial is planning two major back-to-back events next June to commemorate the 74th Anniversary of D-Day. First, on June 5, there will be a major academic conference co-sponsored with Liberty University, "WWI in Film," bringing in scholars and students from across the nation to explore the impact that WWII has had on our cultural memory. On June 6, the annual commemoration at the Memorial in Bedford will pay tribute to those who achieved victory in Normandy.

2. **Lead partner: Northern Virginia World War History and Heritage Trail**

Project name: *Discover Prince William & Manassas*

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

Summary: Tourism partners (Discover Prince William & Manassas, Visit Loudoun, Visit Fairfax, Stay Arlington, and Visit Alexandria) have partnered to create a dynamic brochure that will be distributed through traditional brochure distribution sites throughout Virginia Welcome Centers, attractions, and in Northern Virginia tourist information centers, as well as being advertised digitally through a website.

To date, 20 grants have been awarded, totaling \$77,811, which has been matched by \$297,332 from 71 partners. The grant review committee recommended keeping the maximum award at \$10,000 and waiting until January to open the fifth round of grants in order to give organizations longer to submit applications. Staff will send direct outreach to partners in order to promote participation. It was the sense of the Commission to approve the two grants and to adjust the schedule to reopen for applications in January.

Request for partnership for WWI Symposium: VMI Center for Leadership and Ethics
"American Leadership and Ethics during the Great War" (April 27–28, 2018)

MAJ Kim Connolly, Virginia Militia, Assistant Director for Programs and Conferences

MAJ Connolly presented plans for a WWI commemorative symposium hosted by the Virginia Military Institute (VMI) Center for Leadership and Ethics. The two-day program will feature nationally recognized American WWI scholars and will focus on leadership at varying levels of war, with panels examining presidential wartime command, generalship at the operational level, and Doughboy citizen-soldier tactical leadership. Additionally, panels will explore Virginia's contributions to the war effort, including the role of VMI and its graduates, the Virginia National Guard, and civilian society. Symposium participants will have access to exhibits in VMI's museum and at the Marshall Foundation.

The VMI Center for Leadership and Ethics requested status as an official partner event of the Commission and funding of \$5,000 to underwrite costs of speaker honoraria and printed materials. It was the sense of the Commission to approve partner status and funding not to exceed \$5,000.

Update on renovations to the WWI Memorial Carillon

Joe Damico, Deputy Director, Department of General Services

Mr. Damico provided an update on the Department of General Services' work plan for restoration of the WWI Memorial Carillon. The facility is currently closed as construction preparations begin. Hazardous material abatement is expected to be completed by December 15, 2017, and a number of other repairs will be completed by October 15, 2018, including repairs for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance; elevator replacement; upgrading of the fire alarm system; window restoration; masonry repointing; mechanical, electrical, and plumbing repairs; interior lobby door restoration; interior painting; exterior door restoration; and masonry repairs to the exterior platform and tower. Repairs to the bells and roofing will not begin until after November 2018 to ensure that the bells remain in their current working condition for the November 11, 2018, Armistice Day ceremony.

Staff report and program updates

Cheryl Jackson

Logo requests

Commission staff recommended approval of eight requests, out of nine applications received since the previous meeting, for use of the Commission's logos in promoting local WWI and WWII initiatives. The Commission reiterated its policy that the logo not be used in connection with commercial endeavors. It was the sense of the Commission to approve the eight logo requests.

Profiles of Honor Tour 2018 schedule

Ms. Jackson presented a tentative schedule for the Profiles of Honor Tour's 2018 tour stops. The tour is currently scheduled for 22 locations in 2018, with priority given to locations that the mobile exhibit has not already visited. Applications for 2018 tour stops continue to be accepted on a rolling basis. In 2017, the first year of touring, the Profiles of Honor Tour has included more than 40 events.

Statewide Teacher Institute

The 2017 WWI and WWII Statewide Teacher Symposium traveled to eight locations across the state in the summer in partnership with 16 museums. It was the sense of the Commission to repeat a scaled back version of the program in summer of 2018, bringing a multi-museum teacher institute to four locations across the state.

Speaker series

The Commission held a four-part WWI speaker series in 2017 in partnership with the Virginia National Guard. In 2018, the Commission will work with partners hosting WWI and WWII speaking events across the state to help promote those individual events, which will fall under the umbrella of the Commission's 2018 WWI and WWII Speaker Series.

Upcoming programs

Planning is in progress for several programs in the coming years marking major anniversary events. These programs include:

- A major event at the State Capitol to mark the centennial of Armistice Day on November 11, 2018. The event, which will include talks, living history, music, and museum displays, will be held 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. A request to the Governor for use of the Capitol has been issued. An 11:00 a.m. bell ringing at the WWI Memorial Carillon will also be held.
- 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. The event will include a commemorative ceremony for veterans.
- 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, 2020, at the MacArthur Memorial, and a symposium on the lasting legacies of the war will follow the commemorative ceremony on Wednesday, September 2, 2020.

Other business

Chairman Cox noted that this would be Cheryl Jackson's last meeting as Executive Director of the Commission as Ms. Jackson moves to a new position with the House of Delegates. The Commission expressed its thanks to Ms. Jackson for years of service and dedication and its best wishes to her as she continues to serve the General Assembly.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.