

VIRGINIA WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION COMMISSION

The Honorable M. Kirkland Cox, Chairman

Meeting Summary

January 10, 2017

9:30 a.m.

Members present: Delegate M. Kirkland Cox (chair); Delegate John M. O'Bannon, Senator Bryce E. Reeves; Delegate Marcus Simon; BG John Mountcastle (USA, Ret.)

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

Activities planned at the WWI War Memorial Carillon Tower

The Honorable Betsy Carr and Peter Broadbent

Mr. Broadbent announced that Delegate Carr would be unable to attend the meeting due to the birth of her grandchild. Mr. Broadbent presented plans from the Virginia World War One Commemoration Foundation for a WWI commemorative event to take place at the Carillon in Richmond on April 6, 2017, marking the 100th anniversary of the United States' entry into WWI, and asked the Commission to partner in presenting the event. Plans for the event include a Carillon bell concert, a wreath laying, and a commemorative service, which will include remarks from Secretary John Harvey and featured speaker Dr. Lynn Rainville.

The Foundation's plans for the commemoration also include hanging a WWI 100th anniversary banner on the Carillon, to remain in place through the 2018 Armistice Day celebration. Chairman Cox suggested that applying for a grant through the Virginia WWI and WWII Tourism Marketing Program may be appropriate for those expenses.

Delegate Cox noted that Commission staff will help plan and carry out the April 6 event, which will fall within the Commission's planned WWI Speaker Series, and suggested a budget not to exceed \$1,000.

Delegate Simon moved to fund the April 6 WWI commemorative event, as discussed, in an amount not to exceed \$1,000. Senator Reeves seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Program updates

Cheryl Jackson, Executive Director

Ms. Jackson provided updates on a number of programs:

Dawn of Infamy: America Goes to War

Ms. Jackson recognized Commission members and staff for their dedication and hard work in carrying out the Commission's first Signature Event on December 8, 2016, *Dawn of Infamy: America Goes to War*. The tribute to WWII veterans, which took place at the University of Richmond's Robins Center, had nearly 1,000 registrants, including 100 active-duty military volunteers. Eighty WWII veterans were present for the tribute, and each received a commemorative coin from the Commission. The program was also viewed from 13 simulcast locations where commemorative ceremonies were held concurrently. Response to the program was universally positive, with attendees and participants noting and commending the organization of the event, the remarks of the speakers, and the impact of bringing so many WWII veterans together for the event.

Profiles of Honor Tour

Ms. Jackson updated the Commission on the *Profiles of Honor Tour*, which opened its doors to the public after a ribbon cutting on December 8, 2016, outside the University of Richmond's Robins Center following the *Dawn of Infamy* program. Build-out of the tour vehicle was completed successfully, on budget and on schedule, in late November.

Out of 33 applications received, Commission staff drafted a tentative 2017 schedule for the *Profiles of Honor Tour*. The Commission members were provided with this schedule, to be updated as more applications arrive on a rolling basis. Ms. Jackson asked Commission members to note that the *Profiles of Honor Tour* will visit the Virginia State Capitol on February 8, 2017.

The *Profiles of Honor Tour* will travel to scheduled tour stops across the state, bringing an interactive WWI and WWII exhibit as well as the *Profiles of Honor* document scanning project, supported by the Library of Virginia, to which visitors can bring WWI and WWII-related documents to be scanned and preserved.

Logo requests

Commission staff recommended approval of six requests, out of seven applications received since the last 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 a commercial endeavor.

Senator Reeves moved to approve the requests. The motion was seconded by BG Mountcastle and passed unanimously.

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

Ms. Jackson provided an update on the Commission's events taking place in spring of 2017 in partnership with the Virginia National Guard (VNG). These events include a WWI Speaker Series, with dates and locations proposed for Bedford in March, Richmond in April, Newport News in May, and Farmville in June. The Richmond event, as outlined previously by Mr. Broadbent, will be expanded into a larger program to be held on April 6 at the Carillon with speaker Dr. Lynn Rainville, marking the 100th anniversary of U.S. entry into WWI.

Plans are also in development for the VNG's annual Military Ball on April 29, 2017, which will be presented in partnership with the Commission, and will mark the beginning of U.S. involvement in WWI. The VNG has issued an RFP for an event planner and will be sending out invitations in the coming weeks.

The VNG is purchasing five uniforms for a WWI honor guard, which will support certain WWI anniversary events. Chairman Cox suggested that the Commission request the honor guard's presence at the State Capitol during Reconvened Session, scheduled for April 5, 2017, to commemorate the WWI centennial. Senator Reeves moved that the Commission request the honor guard's presence at Reconvened Session. Delegate Simon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Ms. Jackson noted that several other WWI events marking entry into the war will take place this spring, including: the Virginia International Tattoo; Fort Eustis's *Declaration of War!*; Shenandoah County Heritage Day; the Virginia Historical Society's WWI lecture series; the MacArthur Memorial and Hampton Roads Naval Museum WWI symposium; Fort Lee and the 80th Division's 100th anniversaries, and Rappahannock Public Library programs.

Battle of Midway 75th anniversary symposium and Navy events

Plans continue to develop for "The Tide Turns," a Battle of Midway 75th anniversary symposium taking place on June 2, 2017, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk, in partnership with the Hampton Roads Naval Museum. The symposium will be free and open to the public and will feature speakers Elliot Carlson, Anthony Tully, Ronald Russell, and Timothy Orr. An invitation-only evening reception will follow for members of the U.S. military, board members from the Hampton Roads Naval Museum and MacArthur Memorial, Virginia's World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission members, NATO representatives, local and state representatives, and representatives of the Cities of Norfolk and Virginia Beach.

Preceding the symposium, on Thursday, June 1, Commander, Naval Air Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet will host 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 will include a flyover by F/A-18 Super Hornets, weather permitting. Commission members are invited to attend both events.

WWI and WWII Statewide Teacher Symposium

Dates and locations are finalized for the eight programs that compose the summer 2017 WWI and WWII teacher symposium. Programs will take place on June 27 at the Edith Bolling Wilson Museum and Birthplace in Wytheville; on June 28 at the Historic Masonic Theatre in Clifton Forge; on July 11 at the MacArthur Memorial in Norfolk; on July 12 at the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond; on July 18 at Bedford Elementary School, near the D-Day Memorial in Bedford; on July 19 at Longwood University in Farmville; on July 25 at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley in Winchester, and on July 26 at the Fredericksburg Area Museum in Fredericksburg.

Each program will include a WWI morning overview and WWI breakout sessions, a WWII afternoon overview and WWII breakout sessions, and a tour of a local museum. Museums from around the state will present education programs at each event, and the Commission's *Profiles of Honor Tour* will travel with the symposium.

Online teacher resources for WWI have been added to the Commission's website, and WWII web resources are in development. Online symposium registration opens soon.

Budget amendment language

Members discussed budget amendments needed for the Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission to receive general and special funds remaining from the Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War Commission upon its dissolution on July 1, 2017.

Senator Reeves moved to accept the proposed budget amendment language. Delegate Simon seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Virginia International Tattoo, Virginia Arts Festival

Scott Jackson

On behalf of Scott Jackson, Producer/Director of the Virginia International Tattoo, who was unable to attend due to inclement weather, Ms. Jackson provided a brief overview and displayed a video presentation on the 2017 Virginia International Tattoo. This year's event focuses on commemorating WWI and takes place from April 27 to April 30 in Norfolk. Commission members were invited to attend the event. More information will follow.

Other business

Delegate Simon and BG Mountcastle both reemphasized the success of the December 8 *Dawn of Infamy* event, noting the positive response both had observed from attendees and participants. Delegate Simon noted that the event set a high bar for future programs.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.