

# VIRGINIA WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II COMMEMORATION COMMISSION



August 20, 2018, 10:00 a.m.  
Pocahontas Building  
Speaker's Conference Room, 6th floor



## Meeting Summary

Members present: Speaker M. Kirkland Cox (chair); Senator Frank M. Ruff, Jr. (vice-chair); Delegate Timothy D. Hugo; Delegate Marcus B. Simon; Dr. Clay Mountcastle; BG John W. Mountcastle

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

### **100th anniversary of Armistice Day/Veterans Day** (Weekend of November 11, 2018, Richmond)

*Ginny Edwards and Lily Jones*

Ms. Edwards presented updates on the Commission's plans to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day on November 11, 2018, in partnership with the Virginia War Memorial and the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. The November 11 event will take place at the Carillon in Richmond, the state's memorial to WWI, beginning with a bell-tolling at 11:00 a.m. in coordination with the national World War One Centennial Commission's Bells of Peace effort, which encourages localities statewide and nationwide to toll bells at 11:00 a.m. local time. Immediately following the bell-tolling will be the annual Commonwealth's Veterans Day Ceremony in the Dogwood Dell Amphitheater, next to the Carillon. The ceremony will honor veterans and will feature remarks from dignitaries, a color guard, and patriotic music, with special emphasis on the WWI centennial.

Following the ceremony, activities will take place inside and around the Carillon. The afternoon programming will feature museum exhibits, document scanning, games, historical reenactments, an art display, refreshments, and opportunities to explore the newly restored Carillon. The Commission's Profiles of Honor Tour will be onsite and open for visitors.

The Carillon is currently undergoing restoration for the WWI centennial. Dr. Clay Mountcastle noted that the current phase of restoration at the Carillon will be completed ahead of Armistice Day, and the Department of General Services will have installed a new elevator in the tower to allow access for the carillonneur.

Ms. Jones presented plans for a student art contest to be hosted by the Commission and the Virginia War Memorial, encouraging students in grades K-12 to submit WWI-themed art. Finalists in the contest will have their artwork displayed in the Carillon on November 11.

In addition to the November 11 Carillon activities, the Commission will also work with the Richmond Symphony in presenting two WWI-themed concerts. *Brahms Requiem*, *Barber Adagio: Commemorating the Centennial of the Armistice 1918* will take place at the Dominion Energy Center on Saturday, November 10, at 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday, November 11, at 3:00 p.m.

### **The Final Salute: 75th anniversary of D-Day** (June 6, 2019, Bedford)

*April Cheek-Messier, President, National D-Day Memorial Foundation*

Ms. Cheek-Messier presented plans for the National D-Day Memorial's commemoration of the 75th anniversary of D-Day in Bedford in 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 ceremony. The commemorative observance on June 6, 2019, will feature an aerial tribute, a wreath-laying, remarks from dignitaries, and a WWII veteran roll call.

The Commission will partner with the National D-Day Memorial to host the events by hosting registration for attendees on its website, assisting in coordinating remarks from dignitaries, leading the veteran roll call, providing and presenting commemorative coins for WWII veterans, and assisting in promotional efforts for the commemoration. The Profiles of Honor Tour will be open for visitors during the commemorative activities.

## **A Better World Shall Emerge: 75th Anniversary of the End of WWII** (September 2, 2020, Norfolk)

*Chris Kolakowski, Director, MacArthur Memorial*

Mr. Kolakowski presented plans 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 the Nauticus Museum. 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.

A VIP reception on September 1 will precede the event.

## **WWI and WWII Tourism Marketing Grant Recommendations**

*Ginny Edwards*

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

### **1. 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 will allow for the creation of print flyers, programs, and advertisements to increase attendance to an event that honors the sacrifices made by veterans and preserves the legacy of World War II.

### **2. 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.

### **3. 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 proposes a grant to support marketing of 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.

### **4. 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 will be displaying *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 aims 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.

Upon awarding the four grants, the Commission will have awarded 31 grants in five rounds, totaling \$156,304.50 and matched by \$406,088.25 from 111 partners. The grant review committee recommended opening a final round of grants in spring of 2019, with a maximum award of \$10,000, to award the remaining \$43,695.50 in the grant fund. Staff noted that interest in the grants tends to be highest in the spring as partners plan their programming for the year.

Senator Ruff moved to accept the four recommendations as presented and open a final round of grants in spring of 2019. Delegate Hugo seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **Profiles of Honor Tour and Scanning Project**

*Ginny Edwards*

As of August 2018, the Profiles of Honor Tour has seen 24,672 visitors, including 8,492 students and 965 out-of-state visitors, since its launch in late 2016. There have been 81 tour stops in 51 localities. The associated scanning project has collected more than 4,000 scans.

The Commission's lease on the tour vehicle through SPEVCO ends on June 30, 2019. SPEVCO offers an option to extend the lease at the current rate for 12 or 15 months and would require written notice of lease extension by April 1, 2019. Because the exhibit saw its highest visitation in its first year of touring and has visited every region of the state, staff recommended allowing the lease to expire as planned on June 30, 2019, and the Commission took no action to extend the lease.

The Profiles of Honor Scanning Project, hosted in partnership with the Library of Virginia, currently travels alongside the mobile exhibit and will continue to travel independently after the mobile tour ends.

### **Staff report and program updates**

*Ginny Edwards and Lily Jones*

#### **Logo request**

Ms. Edwards presented six requests for use of the Commission's WWI logo in association with WWI and WWII programming, with the recommendation that the requests be approved. Delegate Simon moved to approve the request. Senator Ruff seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

#### **2018 WWI & WWII Statewide Teacher Symposiums**

Ms. Jones gave an overview of Commission's summer 2018 teacher symposiums, hosted in partnership with museums across the state and offered free to teachers in Virginia. In July 2018, programs were held in four locations: Heartwood in Abingdon on July 10, the U.S. Army Quartermaster Museum in Fort Lee on July 17, the Military Aviation Museum in Virginia Beach on July 24, and the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle on July 31. This was the second year of symposiums. Eight symposiums were held in 2017, one in each of Virginia's Superintendent's Regions in 2017.

As interest in continuing the summer symposiums remains high from partners and from teachers, staff recommended that the Commission host two final WWI & WWII symposiums in summer 2019. Richmond and Staunton were suggested as locations for the 2019 programs.

Delegate Hugo moved to host two symposiums in summer 2019. Senator Ruff seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

### **Other business**

Members tentatively planned to meet again in early spring after the close of the final round of WWI & WWII Tourism Marketing Grants. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.