

WWI

CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION

MEDIA ALERT

January 30, 2018

WWI Centennial Coming to the Virginia Historical Society

Major Exhibitions & Programming Supported by Lead Presenter The Boeing Company

Richmond, VA—The Virginia Historical Society (VHS) will host one of the biggest centennial commemorations of World War I (1914 to 1918). *WWI America*—the largest traveling exhibition about the Great War—opens on February 17, 2018. Hundreds of original artifacts will be on display. Important personal narratives illustrate the story of the war overseas, and its dramatic impact on the home front. A second exhibition opening the same day, *The Commonwealth and the Great War*, will highlight the Virginia experience. Through both exhibits, visitors will discover the world-altering impact of the war and how it shaped American culture today. *WWI America* and *The Commonwealth and the Great War* are proudly supported by lead presenter The Boeing Company.

WWI AMERICA—WHAT YOU CAN SEE:

- President Woodrow Wilson's hat and cane
- Magician Harry Houdini's handcuffs
- Latin American activist José de la Luz Sáenz's helmet



WHAT YOU MAY REMEMBER, AND CAN LEARN MORE ABOUT:

- The infamous Zimmerman telegram
- Prohibition of alcohol
- Women's struggle for the right to vote

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE:

- Interactives explore the variety and quantity of U.S. products shipped overseas
- Recreated movie house showing popular films of the period
- IQ station where guests may take the first-ever written intelligence test given to recruits to select candidates for officer training



THE COMMONWEALTH AND THE GREAT WAR

WHAT YOU CAN SEE: Nearly 100 images and artifacts from VHS collections representing:

- The role of Virginia and Virginians in the war, including major universities like Virginia Tech and Virginia Military Institute
- The origins of many of Virginia's largest military installations
- Articles of clothing like the Red Cross uniform worn by Carrie Triplett Taliaferro Scott of Richmond, and the Naval uniform worn by Walter Alfred Clayton, Jr., of Crewe



SPECIAL EVENTS:

Exclusive Member Preview – Thursday, February 15, 2018, 3:00–6:00 p.m. Curator’s Talk 4:30–5:00 p.m.

(Media are invited to interview curators, take photos and videos at the Exclusive Member Preview on Thursday,

February 15, 3:00 p.m.–6:00 p.m. Contact Lizzie Oglesby 804.342.9665 to schedule.)

Memorial Day Commemoration · May 28, 2018

Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony · July 4, 2018

Veterans Day, 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day · November 11, 2018

SPECIAL INSTALLATIONS:

- Paper “Remembrance Poppies” are available for purchase at any amount and will be displayed inside VHS.
- Gifts of \$1,000 or more will honor the memory of a Virginian and will be recognized on a “Roll of Honor” wall inside VHS.
- Tributes to the fallen in the image of red poppies will adorn the front steps of the museum from Spring 2018 through the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day on November 11, 2018.

ABOUT WWI CENTENNIAL AT VHS:

- *WWI America* and *The Commonwealth and the Great War* are proudly supported by lead presenter The Boeing Company. Presenting sponsors: Altria Group and The Genan Foundation. Supporting sponsors: Hamilton Beach Brands, Inc.; Shelton H. Short, Jr. Trust in memory of Shelton and Jean Short Additional support provided by James C. Wheat III; Leidos; Kiwi and Landon Hilliard
- *WWI America* is on display February 17 – July 29, 2018.
- Admission is included with suggested admission to the museum. Through the generosity of the Boeing Company, admission is free for active duty military and immediate family, and free for retired military, for the duration of this special exhibition.
- *WWI America* is a 6,000-square-foot traveling exhibition. It is the nation’s largest traveling exhibition devoted to the Great War. This is the only scheduled venue on the East Coast.
- *WWI America* was produced by the Minnesota Historical Society in partnership with the National Constitution Center, the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial, the Oakland Museum of California, and the Bullock Texas State History Museum. The exhibit has been made possible in part by major grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor.
- *The Commonwealth and the Great War* is on display February 17 – November 18, 2018.
- Admission is included with suggested admission to the museum. Through the generosity of The Boeing Company, admission is free for active duty military and immediate family, and free for retired military, for the duration of the *WWI America* special exhibition through July 29, 2018.
- *The Commonwealth and the Great War* was produced by the Virginia Historical Society and tells stories of individual Virginians who carried Virginia’s proud military tradition to the battlefield.
- Suggested admission for entry to both exhibitions: Free for members, military and their immediate families, veterans and children under 5; \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors, \$5 for youth ages 6-17.

Founded in 1831, the Virginia Historical Society is the oldest cultural organization in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and one of the oldest and most distinguished history organizations in the nation. Located in the Museum District of Richmond, Virginia, it houses a collection of nearly 9 million items and serves as the state history museum with permanent and special exhibitions as well as a vibrant portfolio of public programs. The Virginia Historical Society is located at 428 North Boulevard in Richmond’s Museum District. Hours are Monday – Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. for the galleries and museum shop, Monday – Saturday 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. for the library. For more information call (804) 358-4901, visit vahistorical.org, or connect @vahistorical on Facebook and Twitter.

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