



Parade in Cumberland, Maryland welcoming home World War I soldiers in 1918.

Maryland World War I Centennial Commission Action Plan

MARYLAND WWI



CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

COVER PHOTO

Provided by the Maryland State Archives, the cover photo shows a view of Baltimore Avenue, the main road running through the heart of Cumberland, Maryland during a parade to welcome home World War I soldiers. The photograph was taken by Hervey Laney.

MARYLAND WWI



CENTENNIAL COMMISSION

**GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MARYLAND 21032**

DAVID R. CRAIG, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

JOSEPH T. N. SUAREZ, CHAIR

June 30, 2017

The Honorable Larry Hogan
Governor, State of Maryland
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Governor Hogan,

Thank you for establishing the Maryland World War I Centennial Commission through Executive Order on the very fitting date of November 11, 2015, first known as Armistice Day and now as Veterans Day. We sincerely appreciate your efforts to appropriately recognize the 100th Anniversary of the First World War and the important role that Maryland played.

In support of our mission and the duties outlined in your Executive Order, the Commission has held public, bi-monthly meetings and has established four Working Groups including Development and Fundraising, History and Education, Memorials and Sites, and Social Media and Technology. On June 5, 2017, we voted unanimously to endorse the recommendations of the Work Groups. Those recommendations are outlined and formalized in this Action Plan. We will continue our work and will update this Action Plan as new information becomes available and as we learn of new opportunities to honor the service of Marylanders in the Great War.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve on the Maryland World War I Centennial Commission and we look forward to our continued work with you, our veterans, and the citizens of Maryland on this important initiative.

Sincerely,

Joseph T. N. Suarez
Chair

COMMISSION MEMBERS

Members

Joseph T. N. Suarez, *Chair*

Nelson G. Goodman, M.D.

Jay A. Graybeal

Julia Spangler Madden

Patricia A. McCoy

Rev. Dr. Phebe L. McPherson

Charles D. Melson

Michael Moses

Haywood V. Moss

Nancy D. Schaff

Robert E. Wisch

Staff

David R. Craig, *Executive Director*

COMMISSION DESCRIPTION AND DUTIES

The World War I Centennial Commission was established by an Executive Order signed by Governor Larry Hogan on November 11, 2015 (Executive Order 01.01.2015.27). The Commission consists of eleven members and an executive director who have backgrounds, connections with, or interest in the military, veterans, and the history of World War I.

The Governor established the Commission to recognize the 100th Anniversary of World War I and the role of Marylanders in the War. The duties of the Commission include:

- Planning, developing, and executing programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of World War I and Maryland's involvement
- Encouraging private organizations and State and local government agencies including veterans organizations, historical societies, and museums to organize and participate in centennial events
- Assisting with efforts to protect, improve, and develop educational and interpretive institutions, sites, and museums related to World War I
- Making connections and partnering with sites of significance such as Aberdeen Proving Ground, Fort Meade, Fort McHenry, and the United States Naval Academy as they set up events and exhibits to explain their role in the war.



*Photo Courtesy of Maryland State Archives:
World War I-era men in uniform marching at Fort Meade, in Anne Arundel County, Maryland*

RECOMMENDATIONS

DEVELOPMENT AND FUNDRAISING

The Commission recommends that we partner with the Maryland Historic Trust and the Governor's Commission on Maryland Military Monuments on development and fundraising efforts. On June 13, 2016, Executive Order 01.01.2016.07 transferred the Maryland Military Monuments Commission to the Maryland Department of Planning. It also directed the Maryland Historic Trust to assist with grants and private donations for the preservation of military monuments. Our Commission will assist with their fundraising efforts and make recommendations to help organizations and local governments restore and preserve World War I monuments and sites throughout Maryland.

HISTORY AND EDUCATION

Western Front Association (WFA)

The Commission recommends collaboration with the Western Front Association (WFA) in sponsoring a statewide, two-day symposium in Spring 2018. The purpose of the symposium, which could be held at the War Memorial Building in Baltimore City, would be to provide public access to the history of the war and to highlight the actions of Marylanders during the War.

The Western Front Association (WFA) was formed in 1980 by noted military historian John Giles to maintain interest in the First World War (1914-1918). Since then it has grown to more than 6,500 members worldwide. The WFA works to perpetuate the memory, courage, and comradeship of all who were involved in World War I.

The Western Front Association (WFA) supports many remembrance and research projects, including the renovation of battlefield memorials, organizing care for veterans, and re-establishing the 11 o'clock two-minute silence at the World War I Cenotaph on the 11th of November each year.

Maryland Humanities

The Commission recommends coordination with non-profit and educational groups that promote the preservation of history such as Maryland Humanities.

Each year Maryland Humanities sponsors a series called Chautauqua that highlights important historical figures. In 2017, the 23rd Annual Chautauqua will feature three notable figures of the World War I-era: General John Pershing, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Woodrow Wilson.

Teacher Conference

The Commission recommends participating in the Maryland State Department of Education World War I Teacher Conference in the Spring of 2018 which will be held at Towson University. The Conference will prepare public school teachers with curriculum development. It is being co-hosted by the Maryland Historical Society, The Maryland Council for Economic Development, Maryland Humanities, and the Maryland Council for Social Studies.

National History Day Contest

The Commission recommends supporting the National History Day Contest and encouraging Maryland students to participate.

The Commission will secure funds for the monetary prize which will be awarded to a Maryland student who competes and is selected as a winning entry with a theme focused on World War I. The Commission will present the monetary prize and a plaque to the winner(s) at the Maryland Humanities, National History Day Awards ceremony in 2018 and 2019.

Youth Organizations

The Commission recommends that we work with youth organizations such as the Maryland 4-H, Future Farmers of America, Boys Scouts of America, and Girl Scouts of America, and encourage them to develop displays, activities, and information for events such as county fairs and the Maryland State Fair.

Arts Organizations

The Commission recommends working with Maryland Arts organizations to display photographs and artwork reflective of people, places, and events from the War. Including captions and interpretive materials would explain the importance and history of the photograph and help connect people with what occurred.

MEMORIAL AND SITES

Restoration and Dedications

The Commission recommends partnering with the Maryland Historic Trust and the Maryland Military Monuments Commission to assist with the evaluation and restoration of the 65 World War I monuments throughout Maryland. We also recommend participating in a ceremony to rededicate the monument erected for two Marylanders who received the Congressional Medal of Honor. The two Marylanders are Charles Hazeltine Hammann (pictured below on the left), the first naval aviator to earn the Medal of Honor, and Henry Gilbert Costin (pictured below on the right) who was awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously.



Photo courtesy of Maryland State Archives

Awareness of Memorials and Sites

The Commission recommends developing a small, soft covered book which would provide information on each of Maryland's monuments including a picture, the history of when it was erected, and by whom, with a specific address and location.

The Commission recommends working with the Maryland Department of Planning and the Maryland Department of Information Technology to develop a web-based trail guide of the monuments, memorials, museums, and related places of interest (including military installations and cemeteries) and develop opportunities to encourage youth and families to visit them or to learn more.

The Commission will explore “geocaching” as a method to help promote tourism and encourage the public to visit sites and memorials across Maryland.

The Commission recommends creation of an online database of all of the names listed on the monuments and memorials in Maryland to allow people to search for family members or namesakes who might have served. The Maryland Department of Planning would create the database in coordination with the Governor’s Commission on Maryland Military Monuments.

The Commission recommends a rededication ceremony of the Maryland War Memorial Building in Baltimore City.

New Monument

The Commission recommends that Maryland erect a new World War I monument for the State of Maryland that would highlight the diversity of those who participated in the war in various roles.

SOCIAL MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY

The Commission will work with the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives and the Maryland Department of Information Technology to create a robust website with links to local, state, national, and international organizations as well as primary and secondary sources of materials to assist people in locating information on ancestors, notable people, and notable events such as the war in Europe, the war on the sea, the Home Front, the influenza epidemic, historic sites and monuments, and state events.

The Commission will work with the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives to produce a bi-monthly e-newsletter to provide historical articles, highlight recently held events, and to provide information about upcoming events.

The Commission will work with organizations and agencies such as the Maryland State Archives and the Maryland Department of Planning to provide digital access to military records and databases that allow citizens to research and learn more about the individuals that contributed to the war effort.

The Commission will seek permission from the Library of Congress to make digital versions of two 1933 volumes of the book *Maryland in the World War, 1917-1919; Military and Naval Service Records*. These books are an important resource and provide a detailed history of the service of Maryland’s citizens.

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The commission recommends inclusion of an additional appropriation within the budget of the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives so the Commission can host and co-host events, and design a Governor's World War I Challenge Coin that the Governor could present to supporters of the Commission's efforts such as volunteers, veterans, or honorees receiving special recognition.

Highlight the Diversity of Maryland's Role in the War

The commission will engage and partner with heritage organizations such as the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, and the Jewish Museum of Maryland to help highlight the diversity of Maryland's role in the War. For example, there were 11,000 African Americans from Maryland who served in the United States military during World War I. Additionally 2,000 women served in the U.S Army Nurse Corps and 1,551 served in the U.S Navy Nurse Corps at military base hospitals overseas that were provided by Johns Hopkins University, the University of Maryland, and the American Red Cross.

Highlight the Roles of State Agencies

The Commission recommends highlighting the role that state agencies played. For example, In July 1917, the United States Navy took on the Maryland Oyster Navy. "The Oyster Navy" became part of Maryland's fleet and was the beginning of the Natural Resources Police. Additionally, 6,900 Maryland national guardsmen mobilized to help with the war.

Highlight the Role of Civilian War Work

The commission will engage and partner with organizations such as the American Red Cross, the Young Men's/Women's Christian Associations, and the Maryland Chamber of Commerce to help highlight the role of civilians and businesses in supporting service personnel and the war effort.

Commemoration Events

The World War I Centennial Commission recommends that the Governor host events throughout the duration of the Centennial.

The events could be held at different locations or include representatives from the following locations:

- United States Naval Academy
- Fort Meade
- Fort McHenry
- 5th Regiment Armory
- Aberdeen Proving Ground

On November 11, 2017, we suggest that the Governor host an event in Baltimore City at “Redwood Street”. It was originally named “German Street”, but was renamed after Lieutenant George B. Redwood when he became the first officer from Maryland (and Baltimore) to be killed in action.

We also recommend that the Governor do regional visits to sites of significance for World War I. By way of example, the Cecil County Historical Society has a new World War I exhibit. There is also a “Doughboy Monument” at the nearby Armory.

November 11, 2018 will be the 100th Anniversary of the Armistice which ended the war. We recommend an event in Baltimore in memory of Sergeant Henry Gunther who was the last man killed in action just one minute before the war ended. Sergeant Gunther was from Baltimore and a descendent of German parents.

Other events for 2018 could take place on the days that the 29th and 79th Divisions left the United States.

The Governor could also potentially visit France to tour the battlefields where Marylanders in the 29th and 79th Divisions fought and to visit the United States Military Cemeteries where approximately 1,700 Marylanders were buried.

ATTACHMENTS

Maryland World War I Military Monuments
Executive Order 01.01.2015.27

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The WWICC would like to acknowledge and thank numerous organizations and agencies which are dedicated to commemoration activities and preserving the history of Marylanders during World War I. We would also like to acknowledge the organizations that contributed to this report.

We look forward to partnering with each of them to share this important history and to demonstrate how World War I changed the Maryland, the United States and the entire world. These acknowledgements go to:

Baltimore Museum of Industry
Center for Cryptologic History, NSA
College Park Aviation Museum
County Historical Societies
County Libraries
Epiphany Episcopal Church
Fort McHenry/National Park Service
Governor's Office of Community Initiatives
Jewish Museum of Maryland
International Commission of Military History
John Hopkins
Mallows Bay Partnership
Maryland American Legion
Maryland Department of Planning
Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs
Maryland Horse Industry Board
Maryland Historic Trust
Maryland Humanities
Maryland Library Association
Maryland Military Monuments Commission
Maryland Milestones
Maryland Red Cross
Maryland Salvation Army
Maryland State Archives
Maryland Veterans Memorial Museum
Maryland WWI Network
National Endowment for the Humanities
National History Day
Universities in Maryland
U.S Commission Military History
Western Front Association



*Photo Courtesy of Maryland State Archives:
Circa 1917-1919 Marine Corps recruiting during World War I.
Robert G. Merrick Archives of Maryland Historical Photographs.*