

America Mobilizes 1917: A World War I Re-Enactment

~ Event being held in conjunction with the Great War Association ~

Newport News, VA, June 7, 2017 – In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the United States’ entry into the Great War, the Virginia War Museum will present “*America Mobilizes 1917*” from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 17-18 at Endview Plantation, 362 Yorktown Road.

The event is being held in conjunction with the Great War Association, the oldest and largest WWI re-enactment organization in the country. Through battle reenactments and educational events, the group’s mission is to honor those who fought in WWI by keeping the history of the Great War alive.

According to Chris Garcia, Museum Education Coordinator with the Virginia War Museum, the event will be “one of the only events of its kind in the United States.”

Visitors will be able to experience life as it would have been in an American Mobilization Camp in 1917-1918, where “recruits” will be processed into the U.S. Army. Throughout the day there will be displays of weapons, uniforms and equipment of the U.S. Army, as well as activities designed to illustrate the stateside training of America's Doughboys.

Re-enactors will portray French and British trainers who will conduct demonstrations on the use of equipment – from grenades to a tank – and the tactics used by Doughboys in France. There will also be several “WWI Boot Camps” for children ages 7 to 13 throughout the day, giving children an appreciation of what it’s like to be processed and go through basic training.

Additionally, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, June 17, an information table from the *Virginia WWI and WWII Profiles of Honor Tour* (not the history mobile itself) will allow visitors to scan their World War I- and World War II-related photographs, letters, and documents, which will be preserved and made publicly accessible in the Library of Virginia’s archives.

For those interested in learning more about the role Newport News played in WWI, pick up a copy of our new “*Newport News Port of Embarkation in World War I Guide*” at the Newport News Visitor Center, 13560 Jefferson Ave., or at the Virginia War Museum, 9285 Warwick Blvd. To view the brochure online, click [here](#).

Additionally, a sample itinerary, called “*Newport News and the World Wars*,” designed for those interested in the role Newport News played in WWI and WWII, can be found on page 24 of the [Newport News Visitor Guide](#). Contact the Newport News Visitor Center at 757-886-7777 or toll-free at 888-493-7386 for more information.

Admission to the re-enactment is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children ages 6 to 16. There is no fee to have articles scanned at the information table June 17. Call the Virginia War Museum at 757247-8523 for additional details.

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Newport News Tourism Development Office

Fountain Plaza Two ● 700 Town Center Drive ● Suite 320 ● Newport News, VA 23606
757-926-1400 ● Toll Free 888-493-7386 ● Fax 757-926-1441 ● www.newport-news.org