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***NORTH CAROLINA & WORLD WAR I CONTINUES MAKING HISTORY***  
*Blockbuster Exhibit Breaks Records, Gains Artifacts, Wins Awards*



**RALEIGH, N.C.** – The North Carolina Museum of History’s groundbreaking *North Carolina and World War I* continues to make history. Not only has the exhibit shattered attendance records and accumulated awards, but the museum was recently honored to receive several artifacts previously owned by North Carolina native and World War I hero Kiffin Rockwell.

Planned, produced and built entirely in-house, the 6,500-square-foot exhibition—believed to be the largest of its kind among state history museums—has a lot to be proud of.

***Record-breaking visitation***

Visitation to the award-winning *North Carolina and World War I* has soared since its April 2017 opening—reaching **over 456,000 in August and passing 470,000 in September**, further cementing its status as the most-visited temporary exhibit ever created by the North Carolina Museum of History.

“World War I veterans—soldiers and nurses—feared that their service and sacrifice would be forgotten by future generations,” said Jackson Marshall, deputy museum director and lead curator for the World War I exhibit. “But North Carolinians from across the state have come to see the exhibition in record numbers, proving that we all want to remember and honor their memory.”

### ***New artifacts***

The exhibit doesn't show signs of decreasing visitorship anytime soon. In fact, the museum has recently added a display of newly-discovered artifacts from North Carolina native and World War I aviation hero Kiffin Rockwell to add to its commemorative collection. Rockwell grew up in Asheville, and was the first American pilot to shoot down an enemy aircraft in World War I.

On Friday, July 27, Rockwell's two great nieces, Marcelle Rockwell and Sybil Robb, accompanied by retired French Air Force General Yvon Goutx (who commanded the modern-day Lafayette Escadrille), visited the museum. Marcelle recently found several items belonging to Kiffin, which the family has graciously loaned to the museum.

Loaned items include: Rockwell's silver Tiffany & Co. cigarette case (two cigarettes still inside), his watch, a photo of Victor Chapman, a fountain pen, his original Croix de Guerre with two palms, and a woman's handkerchief inscribed with the words, "Ne M'oubliez pas," meaning "Do not forget me."

These items, some of which were on Kiffin's person during his fatal crash, will be displayed alongside a uniform worn by Rockwell for the duration of the exhibit.

Speaking on the museum's exhibit, Brig-Gen (Ret) Goutx said, "The short visit gives me the will to take more time to see the great job you did all for the History and Memory."

Goutx continued, "I was also honored to attend to the gifts from Rockwell Family to the museum... I am attached to Kiffin and his comrades who enlisted in the Légion Etrangère 2 years and 8 months before United States entered WWI. I paid tribute to him [Rockwell] in Roderen, for the first time, on April 30th (the Cameron battle anniversary), 1972."

### ***Recent awards***

In addition to soaring visitor numbers and securing new artifacts, *North Carolina and World War I* continues to gain industry recognition. In early August, the exhibit received a [Southeastern Museums Conference \(SEMC\)](#) Silver Award for Outstanding Exhibitions. Additionally, this past May, the North Carolina Museums Council honored the exhibit with an [NCMC Award of Excellence](#).

"It's a great privilege to be recognized by colleagues and peers from across the Southeast," said Ken Howard, director of the North Carolina Museum of History. "The museum staff has done a tremendous job creating an exhibit that is much more of an experience, than just artifact cases and text on a wall."

### ***Special events***

Veteran's Day is coming up, and this year marks the 100th anniversary of an armistice that ended World War I. Commemorate the centennial weekend with FREE and educational programming at the North Carolina Museum of History.

- **Panel Discussion: The Lasting Legacies of World War I**

[Saturday, Nov. 10, 2–4 p.m.](#)

Join us as a panel of scholars examine why the “war to end all wars” not only failed to keep the world “safe for democracy” but, in fact, created complications that affect geopolitical, economic, and immigration issues to this day.

- **Military History Highlights Tours**

[Sunday, Nov. 11, 1:30–2:30 p.m.](#)

Remember some of the North Carolinians who served in the armed forces on a docent-led guided tour of the museum’s military history exhibits. Tours leave from the front desk.

- **Music of the Carolinas: Raleigh's Pipe Band: Wake and District**

[Sunday, Nov. 11, 3 p.m.](#)

Free tickets for this concert are distributed while they last beginning at 2 p.m.

Celebrate Armistice Day with musical selections by Raleigh’s premier bagpipe and drum band. Presented with PineCone and support from North State Bank and MOHA/museum members.

- **Veterans Day Holiday**

OPEN Monday, Nov. 12, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.

Use your day off to visit the museum and commemorate the observance of Armistice Day. All exhibits are open, including the centennial blockbuster [North Carolina and World War I](#). Other exhibits of military interest include [A Call to Arms](#) (our military history gallery) and [A Thousand Words: Photographs by Vietnam Veterans](#).

The [North Carolina and World War I](#) exhibit and the museum are free, as is parking on the weekends. Major supporters of the exhibit are the North Carolina Museum of History Foundation and MOHA (the Museum of History Associates), members of the museum support group. For more information about the exhibition, please visit [ncmuseumofhistory.org/NCWW1](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/NCWW1).

LINK to images and

captions: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/r9lz0iapdy7woby/AABK1rQK0B14aWFor9XaHJQQa?dl=0>

### **About the N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate**

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

For information about the N.C. Museum of History, call 919-814-7000 or access [ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org) or follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), or [YouTube](#).

### **About the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit [www.ncdcr.gov](http://www.ncdcr.gov).

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