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***NORTH CAROLINA & WORLD WAR I EXTENDED THROUGH MEMORIAL DAY***  
*Blockbuster exhibit surpassed half a million visitors in 2018*



**February 8, 2019 (RALEIGH, N.C.)** — The North Carolina Museum of History is proud to announce that, due to popular demand, our blockbuster [\*North Carolina & World War I\*](#) exhibit has been extended through May 27, 2019 (Memorial Day).

This free, award-winning exhibit commemorates the centennial of U.S. entry into World War I and focuses on North Carolina's role in the War to End All Wars on the western front in France and Belgium. Visitors will experience a re-created trench warfare environment to discover what life was like for Tar Heel soldiers, who entered the war in 1917.

Visitation to the record-breaking *North Carolina and World War I* has soared since its April 2017 opening—**surpassing half a million visitors in October 2018 and reaching nearly 550,000 by the end of the year**, further cementing its status as the most-visited temporary exhibit ever created by the North Carolina Museum of History.

“It’s a great privilege to share our [North Carolina & World War I](#) exhibit with more than half a million visitors from across the state, the country, and the world,” 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.”

“World War I veterans—soldiers and nurses—feared that their service and sacrifice would be forgotten by future generations,” Howard continued. “But visitors have come to see the exhibition in record numbers, proving that we all want to remember and honor their memory.”

Planned, produced and built entirely in-house, the 6,500-square-foot exhibition is believed to be the largest of its kind among state history museums. It highlights approximately 500 artifacts, period photography, a trench diorama, historical film footage, educational interactive components, and video re-enactments that feature European and North Carolina soldiers and citizens to relate the stories of ordinary men and women from North Carolina who provided extraordinary service to their country 100 years ago.

### **Awards**

In addition to soaring visitor numbers and securing new artifacts, *North Carolina and World War I* continues to gain industry recognition. In October 2018, former deputy museum director and lead curator for the World War I exhibit, Jackson Marshall, received the [Governor's Award for Excellence](#) in Outstanding State Government Service for his work on the exhibit.

"I'm surprised that I was even nominated for it and I'm humbled that I received it," said Marshall. "This is not my project; this is a museum project. A tremendous staff put together this exhibition. So, while I'm receiving the award, I really see it more as something to honor the veterans of World War I."

In early August 2018, the exhibit received a [Southeastern Museums Conference \(SEMC\)](#) Silver Award for Outstanding Exhibitions. Additionally, in May 2018, the North Carolina Museums Council honored the exhibit with an [NCMC Award of Excellence](#).

Want to learn more about this acclaimed exhibit? [Visit us online](#) for visitor testimonials, educational and online resources, and more!

LINK to images and captions:

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

**For information about the NC Museum of History**, a Smithsonian-affiliated museum, call 919-814-7000 or access [ncmuseumofhistory.org](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org) or follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Google+](#) or [YouTube](#).

### **About the NC Museum of History**

The N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, 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 NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

### **About Smithsonian Affiliations**

Smithsonian Affiliations is a national outreach program that develops long-term collaborative partnerships with museums, educational, and cultural organizations to enrich communities with Smithsonian resources. More information is available at [www.affiliations.si.edu](http://www.affiliations.si.edu).

**About the NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**

The NC 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 NC Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the NC 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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