



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### **N.C. Museum of History Receives WWI Uniform Loan from Smithsonian, Offers Full Day of Family Events for WWI Centennial**

**RALEIGH, N.C.** – Today marks 100 years since U.S. soldiers entered World War I, a centennial of national note.

On Saturday, April 8, 2017, the N.C. Museum of History will host a [FREE, day-long commemoration event](#) to mark the centennial of U.S. entry into World War I and to celebrate the opening of a **unique new museum exhibit, *North Carolina and World War I***.

This full day of free family-oriented events will include a wreath-laying ceremony with **Governor Roy Cooper**, an armored Humvee and a five-ton cargo truck from the NC National Guard, a bagpiper in WWI regalia, costumed reenactors, film screenings, hands-on activities, and more.

**\*\*SPECIAL UPDATE:** The N.C. Museum of History, a Smithsonian Affiliate, has just received a **uniform worn by North Carolina aviator Kiffin Rockwell, on loan from the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum**, to display for the duration of the exhibit. Rockwell grew up in Asheville and was **the first American pilot to shoot down an enemy aircraft** in WWI. This **notable loan** enriches just one of the many **Tar Heel stories** highlighted in the new exhibit.

Believed to be **the largest of its kind** among state history museums, this groundbreaking exhibit features a life-size trench replica, interactive video, realistic battlefield sounds and sights, and stories of Tar Heel bravery. Learn more at [ncmuseumofhistory.org/NCWW1](http://ncmuseumofhistory.org/NCWW1).

#### **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.

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