The State of Maryland

Executive Department

EXECUTIVE ORDER
01.01.2015.27

Maryland World War I Centennial Commission

WHEREAS, Armistice Day has been marked on November 11 every year since 1918 commemorating the day the Allied forces signed an agreement with the Germans that would end World War I;

WHEREAS, The cost in human suffering during World War I, originally known as the Great War, was on a scale unprecedented in human history. Between 1914 and 1918, there were over 37 million casualties with over 62,000 Marylanders serving in combat and nearly 2,000 losing their lives;

WHEREAS, A statewide project to record the deeds of Marylanders who served in uniform began before the war ended followed by the Maryland General Assembly passing a bill in 1920 appointing a War Records Commission, which resulted in the 1933 publication of *Maryland in the World War, 1917-1919: Military and Service Records*;

WHEREAS, The Maryland World War I Centennial Commission is established to provide for appropriate activities for residents and visitors to remember, commemorate, and learn about the meaning of World War I and the role of Marylanders in the conflict;

WHEREAS, There are several sites in Maryland with historical significance to World War I, including Fort Meade, which operated as a training site for 400,000 soldiers; Aberdeen Proving Ground, the oldest proving ground in the country; and Fort McHenry, which was the largest receiving hospital in the country during the war and tended to more than 20,000 wounded returning to the United States; and

WHEREAS, The World War I Centennial Commission will develop and execute plans for projects and activities recognizing the 100th year anniversary of World War I, with particular emphasis on those Marylanders who made the supreme sacrifice and those who returned home wounded.

NOW THEREFORE, I, LAWRENCE J. HOGAN, JR., GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, BY VIRTUE OF THE AUTHORITY VESTED IN ME BY THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF MARYLAND, HEREBY PROCLAIM THE FOLLOWING EXECUTIVE ORDER, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY:

A. Established. There is a Maryland World War I Centennial Commission (Commission).

B. Tasks. The Commission is charged with the following duties:

(1) To plan, develop, and execute programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of World War I and Maryland's and Marylander's role in it;

(2) To encourage private organizations, State agencies, and local government in Maryland to organize and participate in activities commemorating the centennial of World War I;

(3) Assist with efforts to protect, improve, and develop educational and interpretive institutions, sites, and museums related to World War I for educational, recreational, and tourism purposes; and

(4) Perform other actions necessary to carry out the duties of the Commission.

C. Membership. The Commission shall consist of up to 11 members, appointed by the Governor. The members will have relevant interest or expertise and will serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

D. Chair. The Governor shall designate a Chair from among the members of the Commission.

E. Vacancies. In the event of a Commission vacancy, the Governor shall appoint a successor.

F. Staffing. The Commission will be staffed by the Governor's Office of Community Initiatives in coordination with Veterans, Planning, and other State agencies as directed by the Chair.

G. Procedures.

(1) The Commission shall meet as frequently as necessary, as determined by the Chair of the Commission, to carry out its duties established by this Executive Order.

(2) The Commission shall adopt procedures to ensure the orderly transaction of business.

(3) The members of the Commission may not receive compensation for their services. The members may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, in accordance with the Standard State Travel Regulations as provided in the State budget.

H. Action Plan. By June 30, 2017, the Commission shall present to the Governor an Action Plan to achieve the Commission's tasks. The report shall contain recommendations to commemorate the centennial of World War I.

I. Reporting. The Commission shall update the Action Plan as necessary.

J. Termination. This Executive Order shall terminate and be of no effect after November 11, 2019.

GIVEN Under My Hand and the Great Seal of the State of Maryland in the City of Annapolis, this 11th day of November, 2015.

Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.
Governor

ATTEST:

John C. Wobensmith
Secretary of State