THE NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL IS AMERICA’S LEADING INSTITUTION DEDICATED TO REMEMBERING, INTERPRETING AND UNDERSTANDING THE GREAT WAR AND ITS ENDURING IMPACT ON THE GLOBAL COMMUNITY.

ON THE COVER:
The Liberty Memorial Tower lit with the art installation “Horizons” during the 2023 NFL Draft, co-hosted on the National WWI Museum and Memorial’s grounds.

IMAGE COURTESY OF MICHAEL EDWARDS - MEDWARDSPHOTO.COM
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DEAR FRIENDS,

Over the past year, the National WWI Museum and Memorial has made great progress to strengthen our mission of remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact on the global community. 2023 marked the first opening of a new gallery in a multi-year strategic effort to provide transformative upgrades to the Museum and Memorial.

In May, the Museum and Memorial opened the new Lower Level, featuring the Bergman Family Gallery and Open Storage Center – approximately 4,000 square feet of storage and a 190-foot “coastline” of window cases that display objects and artifacts otherwise unavailable to visitors. Later in November, the first of 5 phases of Main Gallery upgrades were unveiled that create a richer and more immersive experience. These enhancements added more interpretation and nine new interactive activities to the Main Gallery, reinventing the museum experience for each generation to discover and learn in new ways.

Upgrades to the Museum and Memorial will continue into 2025, including to the outdoors where preservation work and deferred maintenance is being completed. These indoor and outdoor renovations are the most extensive to the Museum and Memorial since opening in 2006 and set the stage for our centennial in 2026.

While the expansions and upgrades were a major focus in 2023, they didn’t slow our core missional work down. In fact, we served a record 1.1 million people on our 47 acres! And online, we reached millions more. Here are some highlights that you’ll read about in the coming pages:

- Co-host of the 2023 NFL Draft, welcoming 312,000 people to the three-day event.
- Website visitors increased by 11.9% in 2023 to just over 3 million visitors.
- Onsite fieldtrips saw a 40% increase over 2022.
- Programming on YouTube was watched for 29 million minutes.

Thanks to the generosity of donors like you, the vision of our Board of Trustees and the dedication of our staff and volunteers, the Museum and Memorial remains a world-class institution poised to continue and expand on our work teaching the lessons of WWI. We could not do this without your support and look forward to continuing to grow and evolve in the future.

Sincerely,

Matthew Naylor, Ph.D.
President and CEO

Marty Nevshemal
Board of Trustees Chair
Over 1.1 million people were served on the Museum and Memorial’s 47 acres in 2023 – a record year!

COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS
In 2023, the Museum and Memorial added 294 items to its collection, more than double 2022! Many of these items were in support of the Museum and Memorial’s dedicated collection initiative on women, communities of color, indigenous people and faith and religion.

Plus, a WWI observation balloon basket was added to the collection. The basket, used by a training battalion in Virginia during the Great War, is in exceptionally good condition given its age and the materials that it is made from. The basket is on view in the Open Storage Center.

2023 NFL DRAFT
Kansas City showed the world what it was all about as host to the 2023 NFL Draft. The Museum and Memorial was honored to co-host the event and be the location for the NFL Draft Experience and Red Carpet Events. 312,000 people attended the three-day event.

The National WWI Museum and Memorial was proud to host a special art installation, “Horizons”, on Liberty Memorial Tower and the North Terrace wall. Using projection mapping technology, the Tower was illuminated over five nights in tribute to our nation’s veterans.

DID YOU KNOW?
The official NFL Draft took place at the Museum and Memorial! Before the picks were announced onstage, club teams called in to NFL officials, located in the R.A. Long Learning Center, with their decisions.

Handmade Eastern Orthodox icon.
Bulgaria. c. 1914-18.

Poster, “True Blue,”
E. G. Renesch.
Chicago, 1919.
MEDIA PLACEMENTS
The Museum and Memorial was mentioned in a record number of press clips in 2023, in large part due to the NFL Draft and all of the coverage that it brought.

WEBSITE
Three million people visited the Museum and Memorial’s website, an increase of 11.9% over 2022.

SOCIAL MEDIA
By following the latest trends and with careful attention to data insights, the Museum and Memorial’s social media channels saw impressive growth.

GIVING BACK
In 2023, almost $18,000 in tickets were given to local organizations to aid in their fundraising efforts. The Museum and Memorial supports four categories – community-based, education, arts/humanities and military/veteran organizations.

SENSORY INCLUSIVITY
The Museum and Memorial has partnered with KultureCity® to enhance its ability to assist and accommodate guests with sensory needs and provide an inclusive experience for all guests. Guest Services staff take part in an annual training and resources like headphones, weighted lap pads and quiet areas are offered to guests at no charge.
KANSAS CITY’S FRONT PORCH
As the gathering place for Kansas City, the grounds of the National WWI Museum and Memorial are activated year-round – for exercise, community events, city-wide celebrations, family photo shoots and more. 2023 was the busiest year in the grounds in the Museum and Memorial’s history – with over 1.1 million guests from around the globe visiting the 47 acres.

COMMEMORATIVE CEREMONIES
The opportunity to honor and recognize the individuals who sacrifice and serve remains core to the Museum and Memorial. Memorial Day weekend draws in thousands to honor those who have lost their lives in service to their country. Later in the year, on Veterans Day, thousands more pay tribute to those who served. Each is an opportunity to engage the public in the Museum and Memorial’s mission by offering free admission for servicemembers and half-price admission for the public.

STARS AND STRIPES PICNIC
The City of Kansas City, Missouri’s official Independence Day celebration brought 75,000 people to the grounds and thousands more who took in the fireworks at vantage points across the city! Friends and families braved the heat to grab a bite to eat, shop from local vendors, listen to live music and enjoy the largest fireworks display in the city.

TAPS AT THE TOWER
For ten years, this weeklong nightly event has brought over 2,000 guests to hear Taps played at the base of the Liberty Memorial Tower.

KANSAS CITY’S GREAT BALLOON GLOW
The windy evening meant the balloons stayed grounded, but guests still had a great time wandering the grounds, eating from local food trucks, listening to live music and watching local performance artists and taking in the giant illuminated puppets brought to life by the Stonelion Puppet Theater.

NIGHT AT THE TOWER
Supporters of the Museum and Memorial gathered Sept. 24 to celebrate a Kansas City treasure. Brad and Libby Bergman were the Honorary Chairs and Katrina and Tom Henke and Erik Bergrud and Kimberlee Ried served as Event Chairs. Learn more and get involved:
**EXHIBITIONS**

**SHOWCASING THE GREAT WAR**

**Museum and Memorial Special Exhibitions**

Special exhibitions, a new state-of-the-art Open Storage Center and updates to the Main gallery and special exhibition spaces create a richer and more immersive guest experience.

**SPECIAL EXHIBITIONS IN 2023**

*Entertaining the Troops* gave a peek into the life of a WWI soldier beyond the battlefield, whether waiting for the enemies’ next move or partying in Paris. Timed to open before the 2023 NFL Draft, the exhibition highlighted the activities of soldiers that served as a distraction from the reality of war.

*Bespoke Bodies: The Design and Craft of Prosthetics* explored the past, present, and future of prosthetic design, including the transformative time for prosthetics during WWI. In collaboration with Design Museum Everywhere, the exhibition shared the evolution of prosthetic devices through visual stories, historical timelines, videos and over 50 objects from around the world. Presented by Bank of America.

**ONLINE EXHIBITIONS IN 2023:**

*Land of Battle Images of Peace*

Michael St. Maur Sheil’s photography bridges a gulf between remembrance and history, offering a unique lens on the path that nations and their lands take from war to peace.

*Fighting with Faith: A WWI POW Camp of Propaganda*

Germany and the Ottoman Empire – how this WWI alliance used art, writing, architecture and special treatment to target prisoners in the Half Moon Camp.

*Charmed Soldiers*

Surrounded by industrial violence and death, servicemembers of World War I renewed faith, discovered magic and witnessed miracles in everyday and extraordinary objects.
MAIN GALLERY REFRESH
The Lower Level of the National WWI Museum and Memorial reopened to the public on Friday, May 19. Following a year of renovations, the Lower Level features the new Bergman Family Gallery and Open Storage Center – approximately 4,000 square feet of storage and a 190-foot “coastline” of window cases that allows the Museum and Memorial to display objects and artifacts otherwise unavailable to visitors. In addition to the renovation of the new Lower Level, exciting upgrades to the Main Gallery and other spaces will continue through 2025. The first four of these upgrades opened to the public just prior to Veterans Day – Prologue: Grand Illusions, Interactive Touch Tables, America Mobilizes and Move 'Em Out and Bon Voyage. These new spaces better highlight the truly global nature of the war and add nine new interactive screens for visitors.

2024 will see upgrades to the trench and crater, as well as a new field-hospital and epilogue film, each with the goal of creating a richer and more immersive visitor experience. These updates are the most extensive renovations to the Museum and Memorial since the 2006 opening and are expected to be complete by 2026 – the 100-year anniversary of the dedication of the Museum and Memorial.
GLOBAL EDUCATION INITIATIVE

Learners from across the globe turn to the National WWI Museum and Memorial for insight into the Great War. Whether onsite field trips, online lectures or trips across the nation for once-in-a-lifetime events, Kansas City is a hub of WWI learning.

DIGITAL LEARNING
The Museum and Memorial hosts 22 online exhibitions including three that were new in 2023: Fighting with Faith, Charmed Soldiers and Lands of Battle, Images of Peace. The top sites referring digital visitors to the Museum and Memorial include two major players in today’s classrooms: Nearpod and Google Classroom. The most popular Museum and Memorial articles for learners in 2023:
- Women in WWI
- Woodrow Wilson’s Fourteen Points
- Trench Warfare

COLLECTIONS DATABASE
Records added: +2,174 = 55,583 records total
Visitors from 163 countries

TEACHER WORKSHOPS:
The Museum and Memorial hosted 295 teachers in-person and online across four workshops designed to provide content and pedagogical resources for immediate classroom use, while partnering with organizations such as the National Council for Social Studies and Texas Humanities.

REACHING STUDENTS
Onsite fieldtrips saw a 40% increase over 2022 as numbers continue to rebound after the global pandemic.

K-12 ONSITE LEARNER ATTENDANCE

SUPPORTING EDUCATORS
The Museum and Memorial provides educators across the globe with resources for WWI teaching and learning. In 2023, the tools were accessed by over 850,000 educators and learners across 163 nations through a multi-disciplinary and searchable online database, a monthly education newsletter, on-demand video content and over 200 original lessons, activities, tutorials and readings for educators to seamlessly integrate into their classrooms.

Content created by or in partnership with the Museum and Memorial is shared across organizational partners such as Facing History & Ourselves, the Kettering Foundation, the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Ancestry.com and more.
PUBLIC PROGRAMS

WWI PROGRAMS
2023 featured programming for learners of all ages, locally and around the world, to discover and understand the enduring impact of WWI.

The Museum and Memorial hosted 244 public programs on the Museum and Memorial’s 47 acres and indoors including Hands on History and Collections Spotlights with Museum volunteers and staff, community events like Memorial Day and the Stars and Stripes Picnic, public tours and educational programs.

Eighty-one programs were offered in 2023 for learners of all ages, both onsite and online.

MOST POPULAR ONSITE PROGRAMS:
- Canceled! Censored! Banned!
- Germany in Crisis: WWI, a Treaty, and the Emergence of Hitler’s Genocidal Antisemitism
- Living the Great War Weekend

PROGRAMS WITH PARTNERS LIKE:
- American Battle Monuments Commission
- American Public Square
- Jewish Vocational Services
- T.E. Lawrence Society
- U.S. Command and General Staff College

THE POWER OF DIGITAL
Many educational programs are streamed on YouTube Live and added to our library for viewing in the future. This allows the Museum and Memorial to reach a global audience including people who may never travel to Kansas City.

One such example is the Jan. 24, 2023 program, “Unraveling the Myth of Sgt. York.”

- In-person attendance: 53
- YouTube Live attendance: 142
- YouTube viewers in 2023 (post-event): 153,599

WWI SYMPOSIUM
1923 ushered in a new era of military commemoration in the wake of WWI. One hundred years later, the Museum and Memorial’s annual Symposium examined these acts of remembrance and looked back on military actions, the people who served and the ways we remember them.
SERVING OUR MISSION

MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL VOLUNTEERS
In total the Museum and Memorial had 649 volunteers contribute over 57,000 hours of service in 2023, the equivalent of $1.82 million or 27 full time staff members!

10,000+ HOURS OF SERVICE
Summer 2023, Dave Damico completed his 10,000th hour of volunteer service to the Museum and Memorial. Dave is often requested to lead field trips by teachers he has worked with in the past. As one of the Museum’s premiere tour guides and role models, Dave passes along his infectious love of history to everyone he interacts with. In December, Dave was honored as a 2023 Local Hero by Ingram’s Magazine.

In 2024, the Museum and Memorial expects a few more volunteers to also hit the 10,000 hour mark. Each day, the dedication of dozens of volunteers helps keep operations running smoothly and positively impacts the guest experience.

2023 ACE VOLUNTEERS
ACE VOLUNTEERS GIVE 500+ HOURS OF SERVICE EACH YEAR TO THE MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

| LINDA NICKISCH | 1114 |
| JIM TATE | 944 |
| GERASIM MAYDEN | 900 |
| PAUL FRANK | 831 |
| DAVE KLOSE | 797 |
| RICK ROTH | 749 |
| BRUCE HUMPHRIES | 747 |
| CASEY KOTOWICZ | 738 |
| GARY JACKSON | 717 |
| JOHN OCHSNER | 690 |
| JERRY SCHMIDT | 669 |
| SUSAN PORTER | 641 |
| DAVE DAMICO | 628 |
| CAMERON CLEMENTS | 622 |
| RHONDA MORRIS | 619 |
| CHARLIE VAN WAY III | 607 |
| DENNIS CROSS | 607 |
| CARL MANNING | 590 |
| FRANK ALBANI | 586 |
| CHARLIE WELLS | 582 |
| STEVE HAY | 574 |
| JEB COY | 558 |
| LE DENNISTON | 547 |
| DAVID BABSON | 536 |
| JIM LONG | 535 |
| STEVEN DIETZ | 524 |
| KEITH BAUM | 514 |
| DAVID LUNGREN | 505 |
FINANCIALS

CONTINUED PROGRESS ON INFRASTRUCTURE
Thanks to generous support from donors, the Museum and Memorial made significant upgrades to refresh and expand the galleries and create a more immersive guest experience. The Lower Level, including the Bergman Family Gallery and Open Storage Center, was completed and opened to the public in May. Main Gallery upgrades began in the summer and will continue through 2025.

Buoyed by a one-time appropriation from the State of Missouri, a series of capital projects focused on restoration and deferred maintenance. The Museum and Memorial expects to be caught up on all deferred maintenance by the close of 2024.

OUR PLEDGE TO YOU
We promise to use your gift as intended to further advance our mission of remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact.

For a copy of the audited financial statements or IRS Form 990, visit theworldwar.org/financials or contact us at accounting@theworldwar.org or 816.888.8100.
ADVANCING OUR MISSION

2023 MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL SUPPORTERS

The National WWI Museum and Memorial relies on the generosity of our donors to advance our mission of remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact on the global community. Gifts of all sizes are greatly appreciated and needed to support the work of the organization.

With no appropriations for operating support from federal or state governments, the Museum and Memorial relies on members, supporters, and corporate and foundation partners to invest in our mission to make a difference. As a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, contributions are fully deductible to the extent allowed by law.

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Scott and Kathleen Ramage
Chailey Ramirez
Kevin Ramkisson
Geisha Ramos
Jeff and Trish Ramsey
Crystal Ramus
Susan Ramza
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Carol Randell
Jeffrey and Anne Randolph
Richard and Jo Randolph
Alfred and Maria Rangel
Ruben Rangel
John Rankin
Galen Rappe
Chris Raquezapaw
Lee Rathburn
Brian Rathsam and Emmalee Schaumburg
Josie Rawlings
Mitchell Rawson and Molly Happe
Alyson Ray
Mary D. Raynolds
Myron Re
Ted and Katie Rea
John and Ann Readey
Roxie Reavis and Julia Bergman
Dennis and Sallie Redd
<table>
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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Libby and Brad Bergman</td>
<td>$1,000,000+</td>
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<td>Meredith and Warren Burns</td>
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<td>Ann and Gary Dickinson Family Charitable Foundation</td>
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<td>Estelle S. and Robert A. Long Ellis Foundation</td>
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<td>Mark and Jill Henderson</td>
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<td>Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation</td>
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<td>Milbank Manufacturing</td>
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