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Pritzker Military Museum & Library to sponsor the founding of United States World War One Centennial Commission

Commission to announce major contributions, honorary Chairs at Chicago press event next week

CHICAGO, Dec. 5, 2014—The Pritzker Military Museum & Library will be recognized as founding sponsor of the United States World War One Centennial Commission next week and will partner with the Commission through July 2019 in developing programs and materials commemorating the 100th anniversary of the war.

The partnership will be announced—along with the naming of several former U.S. presidents as honorary Commission Chairs—at a private reception and press function to be held at the Museum & Library Dec. 9 at 5 p.m. CST. All members of the media are invited to attend, and the event can be viewed by the public via live webcast at www.pritzkermilitary.org/WWICentennial.

“As an institution dedicated to preserving and sharing the history and heritage of the Citizen Soldier, the Pritzker Military Museum & Library is proud to support the Centennial Commission in similarly preserving and sharing the history of World War I, so that we can learn lessons from the past to apply to the future,” said Museum & Library Founder and Chair Jennifer Pritzker, a retired colonel of the Illinois Army National Guard.

Pritzker, a noted philanthropist who cites the World War I service of both her grandfathers as a more personal reason for getting involved, said the Museum & Library would strive to give the centennial the recognition it deserves through partnership activities to include the publication of the official World War One Centennial coffee table book, a number of television programs, an exhibit, and development and distribution of a commemorative coin.

“The generosity of the Pritzker Military Museum & Library will allow the Commission to further our efforts toward honoring the men and women who served and sacrificed, both overseas and on the home front, during the First World War,” said Commission Chair Robert J. Dalessandro, a retired colonel of the U.S. Army. “America’s first modern millennials, they bridged the Gilded Age and the Modern Era, birthing both ‘The Greatest Generation’ and the American Century that followed.”

The Commission will hold its next meeting at the Museum & Library Dec. 10 at 12:30 p.m. CST, which can also be viewed by the public at www.pritzkermilitary.org/WWICentennial.
About the Pritzker Military Museum & Library
The Pritzker Military Museum & Library is open to the public and features an extensive collection of books, artifacts, and rotating exhibits covering many eras and branches of the military. Since opening in 2003, it has become a center where citizens and Citizen Soldiers come together to learn about military history and the role of the Armed Forces in today’s society. The Museum & Library is a non-partisan, non-government information center supported by its members and sponsors.

About the United States World War One Centennial Commission
The Commission was established by the World War One Centennial Commission Act (Public Law 112-272) passed by the 112th Congress and signed by President Obama on January 16, 2013. The Commission is responsible for planning, developing, and executing programs, projects, and activities to commemorate the centennial of World War One; encouraging private organizations and State and local governments to organize and participate in activities commemorating the centennial of World War I; facilitating and coordinating activities throughout the United States relating to the centennial of World War One; serving as a clearinghouse for the collection and dissemination of information about events and plans for the centennial of World War One; and developing recommendations for Congress and the President for commemorating the centennial of World War One. The Commissioners serve without pay, and no appropriated Federal funds may be used for any of the Commission’s activities or expenses.

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