



News Release**Friday, Dec. 12, 2014**

Contact:Mike Vietti, National World War I Museum, 816- 888-8122, mvietti@theworldwar.org**National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial
Receives Designation from Congress**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Following legislation passed in the United States House of Representatives in May, the United States Senate passed a bill as part of the National Defense Authorization Act today providing the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial with its second official recognition from Congress. The legislation effectively designates the Museum as the National World War I Museum and Memorial.

The bill recognizes Liberty Memorial as a World War I memorial in a similar fashion to other nationally recognized memorials such as the National World War II Memorial and the Korean War Veterans Memorial on the National Mall in Washington D.C. The legislation provides an additional designation for the Museum, which was deemed as “America’s National World War I Museum” by Congress in 2004.

“This recognition from Congress is a tribute to the foresight and dedication of the 80,000-plus Kansas City area residents who took the initiative to establish and build the Liberty Memorial and Museum shortly after the end of World War I,” National World War I Museum President and CEO Dr. Matthew Naylor said. “We are grateful to each of the members of Congress, including local Senators Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt and Representatives Emanuel Cleaver, Sam Graves and Kevin Yoder, for leading this effort to officially recognize Liberty Memorial.”

The Senate bill was introduced by Missouri Senators Roy Blunt and Claire McCaskill and West Virginia Senator John Rockefeller. The U.S. House of Representatives legislation passed in May was introduced by Missouri Representatives Emanuel Cleaver and Sam Graves, Wisconsin Representative Gwen Moore, Washington D.C. Representative Eleanor Holmes Norton, Texas Representative Ted Poe, Illinois Representative Bobby Rush, Virginia Representative Rob Wittman, Kansas Representative Kevin Yoder and Alaska Representative Don Young.

The legislation also redesignates Pershing Park in Washington D.C. as a World War I Memorial and authorizes enhancements or creation of additional commemorative works within the area. Enhancements would be spearheaded by the United States World War I Centennial Commission using privately raised funds.

The bill now moves to the White House, where it awaits a signature from President Barack Obama.

The National World War I Museum holds the most diverse collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and is the second-oldest public museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history and personal experiences of the war. The Museum was ranked as one of the top 25 museums in the United States by TripAdvisor in 2014 and was recently recognized by *USA Today* as one of the top 10 museums that “bring military history to life.”

The Museum is in the midst of the Centennial commemoration of World War I (2014-19) and will offer special exhibitions, guest lectures, programs and other events during the next five years. Currently, the Museum’s special exhibitions include [*Over By Christmas: August-December 1914*](#), an examination of the first months of World War I, [*War & Art. Destruction and Protection of Italian Cultural Heritage During World War I*](#), an exhibition of

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photographs documenting the Italian effort to preserve significant works of art during the Great War, and [Letters & Artworks From War: Renefer: 1914-18](#), a bilingual exhibition featuring works from the French artist Renefer. The Museum also recently launched its latest online exhibition, [The Christmas Truce, Winter 1914](#), which examines the remarkable event celebrating its Centennial this month.

About the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial

The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial is the only American museum solely dedicated to examining the personal experiences of a war whose impact still echoes in the world today. The National World War I Museum holds the most diverse collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and is the second-oldest public museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history and experiences of the war. The Museum takes visitors of all ages on an epic journey through a transformative period and shares deeply personal stories of courage, honor, patriotism and sacrifice. Designated by Congress as America's official World War I Museum and located in downtown Kansas City, Mo., the National World War I Museum inspires thought, dialogue and learning to make the experiences of the Great War era meaningful and relevant for present and future generations. To learn more, visit theworldwar.org.

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