



News Release**Tuesday, December 30, 2014**

Contact:Mike Vietti, National World War I Museum, 816-888-8122, mvietti@theworldwar.org**National World War I Museum Breaks Attendance Record in 2014;
Nixa, Missouri Resident Wins \$1,000 Prize Package**

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – On the heels of beginning the Centennial commemoration of the outbreak of the Great War, the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial announced a new annual attendance record on Tuesday.

When Scott Jemison from Nixa, Mo., purchased a ticket at the Museum, he became the 171,031st guest at the Museum in 2014, breaking the previous record of 171,030 set in 2007 following the Museum reopening in December 2006. The Museum concluded 2014 with 172,148 paid guests.

“The past 12 months have truly been remarkable for the National World War I Museum,” said National World War I Museum President and CEO Dr. Matthew Naylor. “This year marks the beginning of the Centennial of the Great War and during the course of the year, we’ve received an additional designation from Congress, fostered partnerships with organizations across the world, set a Museum record for public program attendance and have now set a record for paid attendance as well. We would like to thank each of the guests who attended the Museum in 2014 for helping us reach this milestone.”

Jemison was visiting the Museum with his parents after looking for an apartment in the area during the last two days after he accepted a new job and will relocate to Kansas City in May upon graduation from Missouri University of Science and Technology in Rolla with a civil engineering degree. Jemison received a prize package valued at nearly \$1,000 including a \$500 gift card, two tickets to a 2015 Kansas City Chiefs game, two tickets to a 2015 Sporting KC match, two tickets to a 2015 Kansas City Symphony event, two tickets to a 2015 Kansas City T-Bones game and a complimentary 2015 membership to the National World War I Museum.

“We spent the last few days looking for an apartment, so we wanted to find something else to do today and we chose the Museum because it’s so highly regarded,” Jemison said. “Setting the new record at the Museum is obviously a surprise and it’s a bit overwhelming. After winning this package, I certainly won’t have an excuse to be bored after I move to Kansas City in May.”

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 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

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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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