

THE NATIONAL WWI MUSEUM AND MEMORIAL

News Release

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Renovation of J.C. Nichols Auditorium Among Plans for \$2 Million+ from Kansas City Area Funders to the National World War I Museum and Memorial

Gifts to the National World War I Museum and Memorial's "Call to Duty" Centennial Capital Campaign will also support attracting world-class staff and enhancing visitor experience

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (May 19, 2016) — With an unwavering dedication to the future of the [National World War I Museum and Memorial](#), the Kansas City area philanthropic community continues its generous support of the Museum's "Call to Duty" Centennial Capital Campaign with an additional \$2 million in gifts from:

- **The Illig Family Foundation**
- **The DeBruce Foundation**
- **Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation**
- **Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation**
- **Capitol Federal Foundation**

The gifts from the Kansas City area funders will support renovation and expansion initiatives for the National World War I Museum and Memorial, including:

- Renovation of the Museum's J.C. Nichols Auditorium, including new digital video and audio systems, a new cabling control system, carpentry, Wi-Fi and assisted listening devices
- Five year sponsorship of the Great War Great Film series
- Construction of a new exhibition gallery and renovation of existing outdoor space
- Unrestricted funds to support programs that enhance visitor engagement and satisfaction, efforts to attract and retain world-class staff, and support of multi-year initiatives

"The extraordinary generosity of the Kansas City area philanthropic community has been exceptional," said Dr. Matthew Naylor, President and CEO of the National World War Museum and Memorial. "It is clear that the National World War I Museum and Memorial is a special treasure in Kansas City. We are grateful for the honorable commitment to heed the 'call to duty' to expand the Museum's critical role as America's leading institution dedicated to interpreting, understanding and remembering the Great War and its enduring impact."

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Gifts representing more than \$2 million to support Museum's *Call to Duty* campaign include:

The Illig Family Foundation (\$800,000)

The Illig Family Foundation's lead gift of \$800,000 to the "Call to Duty" Centennial Capital Campaign will provide unrestricted support to deepen visitor engagement and satisfaction, attracting and retaining world-class staff teams and supporting multi-year initiatives and impact strategies.

The DeBruce Foundation (\$500,000)

A portion of The DeBruce Foundation's lead gift of \$500,000 to the "Call to Duty" Centennial Capital Campaign will be used to support the construction of the Museum's new exhibition gallery and outdoor improvements. The rest of the gift will provide unrestricted support, which will be used to deepen visitor engagement and satisfaction, attract and retain world-class staff teams and support multi-year initiatives and impact strategies.

Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation (\$437,800)

The Miller Nichols Charitable Foundation's major gift of \$437,800 to the "Call to Duty" Centennial Capital Campaign will support renovation of the J.C. Nichols Auditorium, including new digital video and audio systems, a new cabling control system, carpentry, Wi-Fi and assisted listening devices. The Nichols family has had a long history with the Museum, starting with J.C. Nichols' involvement in the establishment of the Liberty Memorial immediately following World War I. The Museum is privileged to have Foundation Trustees Jeannette Nichols as Honorary Co-Chair and Terry Dunn, as Campaign Cabinet member. Trustee Kay Callison, daughter of Miller Nichols, has also been an invaluable advocate.

Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation (\$275,000)

The Arvin Gottlieb Charitable Foundation's major gift of \$275,000 to the "Call to Duty" Centennial Capital Campaign will support educational programs and provide unrestricted support to deepen visitor engagement and satisfaction, attract and retain world-class staff teams and support multi-year initiatives and impact strategies.

Capitol Federal Foundation (\$275,000)

The Capitol Federal Foundation's major gift of \$275,000 to the "Call to Duty" Centennial Capital Campaign will be used to sponsor the Great War Great Film series for five years and provide unrestricted support to deepen visitor engagement and satisfaction, attract and retain world-class staff teams and support multi-year initiatives and impact strategies.

The National World War I Museum and Memorial "Call to Duty" Centennial Capital Campaign was launched in 2014 to raise funds to meet four primary goals:

1. Construction of a new exhibition gallery
2. Renovation of outdoor gathering space
3. Support of education programs and opportunity funds
4. Increase the Museum's endowment

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To enable construction of a new exhibition gallery and renovation of existing outdoor space, the Museum's "Call to Duty" Centennial Capital Campaign has also collectively received more than \$5 million from the following:

- Hall Family Foundation
- Enid and Crosby Kemper Foundation
- Jack F. and Glenna Y. Wylie Charitable Foundation
- Marion and Henry Bloch Family Foundation
- Sunderland Foundation
- Sosland Foundation

As previously announced, the David T. Beals, III Charitable Trust has responded to the Museum's "Call to Duty" campaign with a lead gift of \$1 million to expand the Museum's educational initiatives and public programming. The gift will be used to support the creation of the David T. Beals, III Education Fund for the development of exceptional educational programming and to expand the Museum's outreach and collaboration to actively engage schools, higher education and community partners.

The Missouri Development Finance Board (MDFB) also awarded the Museum \$1.8 million in tax credits to support the project.

The National World War I Museum and Memorial's "Call to Duty" Centennial Capital Campaign continues. The general public is also welcome to make contributions to the campaign at theworldwar.org.

About the National World War I Museum and Memorial

The [National World War I Museum and Memorial](http://theworldwar.org) is America's leading institution dedicated to remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact on the global community. The 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 Memorial and located in downtown Kansas City, Mo., the National World War I Museum and Memorial 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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