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## News Release

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### Contacts:

Elaina Boudreau, BELA Communications, (913) 660-0548, [eboudreau@belapr.com](mailto:eboudreau@belapr.com)

Mike Vietti, National World War I Museum, (816) 888-8122, [mvietti@theworldwar.org](mailto:mvietti@theworldwar.org)

## National WWI Museum Marks Fateful Day 100 Years Ago When Two Fired Shots Forever Changed the World

**Museum commemorates 1914 assassination on Saturday, June 28 with free centennial events**

*Public invited to attend special ceremony featuring commemorative address by former U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** (June 23, 2014) – Two shots fired in Bosnia on June 28, 1914 forever changed the world. The assassination of Austro-Hungarian Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife, Sophie, set into motion a series of international events resulting in the outbreak of World War I. The National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial will commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination with a series of public programs and a free public ceremony on Saturday, June 28.

“The anniversary of the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife assisted in facilitating a series of events that resulted in one of the deadliest conflicts in human history,” said National World War I Museum President and CEO Dr. Matthew Naylor. “As we begin commemoration of World War I, it is absolutely critical that we examine the Great War so that we may derive meaning and learn lessons about this war and its enduring impact on human history.”

Highlighting the Museum’s offerings on June 28 is a free public ceremony commemorating the assassination. Dr. John Menzies, former U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina, will deliver the keynote address. Ambassador Menzies served in the U.S. Foreign Service for more than 20 years and was stationed in Sarajevo, Bosnia, during the siege of 1994 before being named the Ambassador in 1995. Ambassador Menzies’ other foreign posts include Hungary, East Germany, Kosovo and Bulgaria.

The National World War I Museum is America’s only museum solely dedicated to examining the personal experiences and stories from the Great War. During the Centennial commemoration (2014 to 2019), the Museum will offer an array of public programs, special exhibitions, guest lectures and other events reflecting what transpired during the course of World War I.

### **Summary of June 28 National World War I Museum Events:**

#### **[WW1USA Amateur Radio Station](#)**

**When:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday, June 28 through Sunday, June 29

**Where:** Southeast Lawn of the National World War I Museum

**What:** The National World War I Museum, in partnership with amateur radio, will host special event radio station WW1USA from the grounds of the Liberty Memorial. Broadcasting for 31 consecutive hours, station operators will contact hundreds of other amateur radio operators across the world. Individuals are welcome to serve as a guest

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operator of WW1USA Radio at any time during regular Museum hours with all guests receiving a special amateur radio operator certificate. **Free to the public.**

**Twitter “E-Reenactment”**

**When:** 9:30 a.m. (start), 10 a.m. (open to public), Saturday, June 28

**Where:** West Lobby Space of the National World War I Museum

**What:** The event that unleashed World War I and forever shaped history will unfold through 140-character tweets in an elaborate “e-reenactment” featuring more than 25 historical figures and multiple languages. Students, staff and faculty at the University of Kansas, as well as local community members, have taken on the Twitter personas of significant and minor participants in the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, which occurred in Sarajevo on June 28, 1914. **Free to the public.**

**That Fateful Day June 28, 1914**

**When:** 11a.m. – 1 p.m., Saturday, June 28

**Where:** South Mall of the National World War I Museum

**What:** The Museum’s South Mall represents an approximation of the Archduke Franz Ferdinand’s parade route taken on June 28, 1914. Individuals representing the seven assassins will be stationed along the Mall to share details of what transpired in Sarajevo in this free self-guided tour that also includes a vintage 1910 Maytag-Mason automobile. **Free to the public.**

**Commemoration Ceremony**

**When:** 2-3 p.m., Saturday, June 28

**Where:** Memorial Courtyard (in front of Memory Hall) at the National World War I Museum

**What:** A formal, **free public program** to include:

- \* Keynote address from former U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina Dr. John Menzies
- \* Performances from the Kansas City Symphony String Quartet
- \* Moving recollection of stories from the era performed by award-winning actor John Renshouse

**Recent Acquisition Display & Discussion: 1910 Belgian Automatic Pistol**

**When:** 3-4 p.m.

**Where:** Paul Sunderland Glass Bridge

**What:** National World War I Museum Senior Curator Doran Cart showcases and discusses a recent acquisition: a Model 1910 Belgian Automatic Pistol. Four Model 1910 pistols were purchased in a Belgrade, Serbia arms store and then delivered to the Archduke Franz Ferdinand assassination conspirators. The pistol on display is similar to the pistol used by Gavrilo Princip to assassinate the Archduke and his wife on June 28, 1914.

**Taps at the Tower**

**When:** Sunset, Saturday, June 28

**Where:** Memorial Courtyard (in front of Memory Hall) at the National World War I Museum

**What:** Taps is a musical piece long associated with the United States Military and is often played at civilian events and funerals around the country. To pay tribute to the rich and storied history of Taps, the National World War I Museum at Liberty Memorial presents the final edition of Taps at the Tower featuring performances from the American Legion.

**Eyewitness to History**

**When:** July 23 to July 3

**Where:** Follows Museum Archivist Jonathan Casey travels at <http://www.theworldwar.org/eyewitness>

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**What:** Museum Archivist Jonathan Casey travels to Sarajevo, Bosnia, and Vienna, Austria, between June 23-July 3 and will file daily reports on the NWWI Museum website from these two cities at the heart of the World War I conflict as the Centennial commences.

**Special Exhibitions Currently at the National World War I Museum**

- [\*“Over by Christmas: August-December 1914,”\*](#) through March 29, 2015, in Exhibit Hall
- [\*“On the Brink: A Month That Changed the World,”\*](#) through September 14 in Memory Hall
- [\*“Art of War: Political Humor”\*](#) in the Research Level Gallery

**June 28 Museum Hours & Admission**

The National World War I Museum will be open on Saturday, June 28, from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Regular admission will apply with discounted admission for active duty military and career retired military.

**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](http://theworldwar.org).

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