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Celebrate South Carolina History Day at the State Museum

Annual event will commemorate the 100th anniversary of World War I

COLUMBIA, S.C., March 28, 2017 – The South Carolina State Museum will host a full day of activities commemorating World War I during its annual History Day, April 8, from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Guests will enjoy live music a film screening, hands-on activities, special displays, presentations and book signings as well as World War I reenactors.

The fifth year of History Day at the State Museum will feature a special advance screening of the new series from PBS and *American Experience*, “The Great War,” at 3:30 p.m. The six-part series, which will air on PBS April 10 through 12, explores how the Great War changed America and the world. A discussion will be held immediately following the screening.

Author Carlton Mullinex will be on hand throughout the day to sign copies of her book, *Make Us Proud: Memories of A. W. “Rock” Norman WWI Veteran Coach Extraordinaire*. The book tells the story of A. W. “Rock” Norman who served in World War I. Norman later became a track and basketball coach for several colleges and universities in South Carolina. Guests will also get to hear from a number of presenters like Sonya R. Hodges Grantham, who will discuss the history of the 371st, an African-American unit formed at Camp Jackson. Dr. Fritz Hamer and Joe Long of the South Carolina Relic Room and Military Museum will give a gallery tour of their new upcoming exhibition on building Camp Jackson at the start of WWI and present on aviation in WWI. Dr. Jerred Metz, Ph.D, will give a presentation on his book about the Battle of Bellicourt Tunnel. Following his presentation, Metz will hold a book signing for his novel *The Angel of Mons: A World War One Legend*.

Guests will enjoy live music by the Fort Jackson Brass Band Quintet and meet WWI reenactors from Military Timeline Impressions. The 81st Wildcat Division from Ft. Jackson will showcase their military miniatures featuring WWI era tanks. The museum will also have a variety of hands-on family and educational activities exploring WWI throughout the day.

This year the museum will have a bonus History Day event with Ron Shelton, Curator Emeritus of the South Carolina State Museum. Shelton will give a presentation on the 75th anniversary of the Doolittle Raid.

The entire museum will be open during History Day. General admission to the State Museum is \$8.95 adults, \$7.95 seniors and \$6.95 children. Visit scmuseum.org for more information or to purchase tickets. History Day activities are included with general admission or membership.

About the South Carolina State Museum: *As the state’s largest and most comprehensive museum, the South Carolina State Museum offers a unique, entertaining and educational experience to visitors throughout its 225,000 square foot facility located in the heart of downtown Columbia’s Congaree Vista. The State Museum is housed in one of its largest artifacts, an 1894 old textile mill full of character and charm. Guests can explore outer space in one of the largest planetariums in the Southeast, watch an interactive 4D movie and look through a vintage telescope in a one-of-a-kind observatory. These opportunities are all in addition to the four*

floors of South Carolina art, cultural history, natural history and science/technology. Visit scmuseum.org to learn more.

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