



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER

GOVERNOR

WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the United States entered the First World War (the Great War) on April 6, 1917, upon passage of a declaration of war by Congress; and

WHEREAS, the First World War marked the introduction of modern industrial warfare with the first wide use of machine guns, poison gas, airplanes, and armored tanks, making the conflict one of the most brutal, costly, disastrous, and disillusioning in history; and

WHEREAS, 86,457 North Carolinians enrolled in the military and 2,375 died either from combat, wounds, or disease; and

WHEREAS, the state contributed to the war effort in Europe in countless ways: from service by volunteers, including four aviators who flew for France; to assistance in the field by men and women of the American Field Service and Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, at home, patriotic citizens cultivated war gardens, manufactured war material from propellers to ships, and invested \$160 million in war bonds; and

WHEREAS, North Carolinians enlisted in large numbers in the 30th ("Old Hickory") Division and the 81st ("Wildcat") Division; many African Americans enlisted in the 92nd Division; and troops trained at Camp Bragg outside Fayetteville, Camp Greene outside Charlotte, and Camp Polk in west Raleigh; and

WHEREAS, Tar Heels broke the Hindenburg Line and were involved in the heaviest of the fighting in France and Belgium, Château-Thierry, Soissons, Saint-Mihiel, Blanc Mont Ridge, Ypres, Belleau Wood, the Meuse-Argonne, and Bellicourt; and

WHEREAS, North Carolinians played leadership roles, including Walter Hines Page of Cary and Aberdeen, ambassador to Great Britain; Josephus Daniels of Raleigh, secretary of the Navy; Claude Kitchin of Scotland Neck, congressional opponent of the war; President Woodrow Wilson, who spent part of his formative years in Wilmington and Davidson; and

WHEREAS, news of the armistice on November 11, 1918, was greeted with wild celebration in the streets of North Carolina cities and towns, and is commemorated to this day as Veterans Day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim 2017 – 2018, as "WORLD WAR I CENTENNIAL YEARS" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.




Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this fourth day of April in the year of our Lord two-thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.