



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2017

CONTACT: Gretchen Pruett, Library Director
700 E. Common St.
New Braunfels, TX 78130
830.221.4322
gpruett@nbtexas.org

World War One Centennial Commemoration Activities in New Braunfels

New Braunfels, Texas — The United States entered World War One on April 6, 1917, and as part of the nationwide Centennial Commemoration, the Sophienburg Museum and Archives and the City of New Braunfels have partnered to honor the occasion with special events and activities.

A Remembrance Day Ceremony will take place on Thursday, April 6th, on the Main Plaza. Starting at 10:30 a.m., the ceremony includes opening remarks by Tara Kohlenberg, Sophienburg Executive Director; presentation of the colors by New Braunfels High School MCJROTC; a proclamation by Mayor Barron Casteel; a wreath laying at the Doughboy Memorial by 1st Vice Commander Brad Henderson and Commander Jerry M. Wray of Walton H. Hoffman Post 179 American Legion; remarks by Sherman Krause, Comal County Judge; and ringing of the courthouse bells by Barron Schlameus.

The Sophienburg Museum will open “War Stories” with a free admission day on Saturday, May 20th. New Braunfels’ uniquely German character compelled its citizens to respond to WWI with fervor. Using the Sophienburg’s rich collections, “War Stories” will showcase Comal County individuals and events during 1915-1919, as well as touch on the global impact of The Great War.

A community display of World War One memorabilia and artifacts is scheduled for Sunday, April 9th, from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at New Braunfels Public Library. The public is encouraged to bring in family stories & heirlooms for this gathering. On the day of the display, the library will photograph the items and post them on the library’s website. Staff of the Sophienburg Museum & Archives will be available to answer questions about artifact and photo care and preservation and/or donations to the Museum. Entry forms are available at the main library Help Desk, the Westside Community Center Library, and the Sophienburg Museum.

Flanders Poppy seeds have been planted in the main library’s Reading Garden as a living reminder of the millions of lives lost in the war.

Starting in April, the Sophienburg, New Braunfels Parks and Recreation, the New Braunfels Public Library, and Spass Walking Tours are sponsoring a Centennial Instagram Photo Challenge in remembrance of the commitment and sacrifice of World War One veterans. Participants take photographs of various local memorial sites and events and upload them to the Sophienburg Instagram page each month (#WW1NB@Sophienburg) and then are entered into a monthly drawing for a prize. Each completed monthly entry is also entered to win a grand prize at the end of the challenge in November. The grand prize is an iPad Mini 4.

The Westside Community Center will be displaying a large-format version of the book *Finding Winnie: the True Story of the World’s Most Famous Bear*. The book chronicles the journey of an orphaned black bear cub,

purchased on a whim by a Canadian soldier heading to the Western front in 1914, and how the bear came to live at the London Zoo where she became the inspiration for A.A. Milne's "Winnie the Pooh" books. The display runs from April 6th to November 11th.

#