

October 7, 2019

Contact: Rusty Nix - (804)310-0285

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ginny Edwards - (804) 698-1888

Cara Burton, ESPL Director – (757) 787-3400

History is on the move as the WWI and WWII Profiles of Honor Scanning Project travels to Tangier Island



Photo: A Parksley resident tells Profiles of Honor team leader, Rusty Nix, about her husband's historic papers this past April. Families are invited to bring WWI and WWII archives to be scanned at the Tangier History Museum.

Tangier, VA – The Virginia WWI and WWII Profiles of Honor Scanning Project will be at the Tangier History Museum and Interpretive Cultural Center on **Thursday, October 31, noon to 5:00 pm and Friday, November 1, 9:00 to 2:00 pm**. The project, which documents Virginia's integral role in world history, is part of a statewide commemoration marking the 100th anniversary of World War I and the 75th anniversary of World War II and has toured Virginia since the end of 2016, digitizing documents related to the history of both wars.

The Eastern Shore Public Library invited the Profiles of Honor project to the Eastern Shore. The team scanned items in Nassawadox and Parksley in April 2019, which are now available to view online. Tangier is known for its high participation in the armed services throughout history, so the team is anxious to include their family archives in the digital history.

The scanning project, a partnership between the Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission and the Library of Virginia, digitizes documents to be archived in an ever-growing collection of original World War I and World War II-related photographs, images, letters, and other documents contributed from around the state. Visitors are invited to bring their own documents to be digitally archived and made publicly accessible online. Items range from single letters, diaries, and photographs to substantial collections of correspondence between soldiers and families at home. These first-hand accounts, some in fragile or deteriorating condition, are carefully guarded treasures that many families are reluctant to

relinquish. The Profiles of Honor Scanning Project enables contributors to preserve and share the intellectual and historical content of these valuable documents and still keep their original collections.

Since its beginning, the scanning project has collected over 5,000 scans, a selection of which are available on the Commission's website, and all of which are being archived and will be permanently accessible online through the Library of Virginia.

This undertaking of the Commission "honors the Virginians who fought for our freedom and helps to ensure that their legacy remains for new generations as World War I and World War II slip further out of public memory," said Virginia House of Delegates Speaker M. Kirkland Cox, who serves as the Chairman of the Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission. "Both wars were fought not only overseas, but from the shipyards, factories, military bases, and homes of Virginians." The Profiles of Honor Scanning Project collects and preserves this part of Virginia's history for generations to come.

For more information on the Profiles of Honor Scanning Project and other initiatives of the Virginia World War I and World War II Commemoration Commission, visit www.VirginiaWWIandWWII.org. For information about the Tangier scanning project, call Cara Burton, ESPL Director, at (757) 787-3400.

end