



**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Leigh Lyons

Office 817-410-3195/ Cell 817-903-9424

[LLyons@GrapevineTexasUSA.com](mailto:LLyons@GrapevineTexasUSA.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Grapevine Commemorates the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
America's Entry in World War I with Exhibit Highlighting the  
Local Perspective**

**GRAPEVINE, TEXAS** (April 6, 2017) --- “The Great War & Grapevine – A Centennial Look at World War I Through the Eyes of Home,” a two-case exhibit in the Lobby of the Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau building at 636 S. Main St., offers a local perspective on World War I in commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of America's entry into the Great War. The exhibit features photos and artifacts from the time period. The exhibit is free and will be on display now through May 6.

The exhibit focuses on eight topics: The Great War; The Ones Who Served; The Ones At Home; The Terrible Cost of Freedom; The Aviators; The Red Cross; The Gift of Time; *The Grapevine Sun*. Each shelf gives a local perspective on the topic and shows its national relationship including

- The Great War tells what happened in town when the war was over – including the story of the bullet fired in celebration that landed in the Cotton Belt Depot wall;
- The Ones Who Served focuses on over 40 soldiers who listed Grapevine as their hometown and mini-histories about them where available
- The Ones At Home salutes the mothers, grandmothers, children, churches and organizations that did all to support the war including Harmon Burrough, Boy Scout, and his official card and letter from President Woodrow Wilson;
- The Terrible Cost of Freedom recognizes the ultimate sacrifice of James Eli Torian, whose family home – the Torian Cabin – is now on Grapevine's Main Street;
- The Aviators showcases flyers from Hicks-Taliaferro Field in Fort Worth who landed their bi-planes in Grapevine just north of the Grapevine Public School;
- The Red Cross tells of the work done by local men and women and a comedy performance of “*The Womanless Wedding*” that was enacted by town leaders to raise funds for the Red Cross;

## World War I Exhibit/p.2

- The Gift of Time features a beautiful carved wooden clock made from the propeller of a bi-plane and given to Mary Virginia Wall Simmons by British soldier, Flight Sergeant Langridge, now a family heirloom and
- The Grapevine Sun showcases the hometown paper's coverage of the war and some of the advertisements of 1917-1918.

“This anniversary is an opportunity to reflect on the interesting and varied local perspective of Grapevine citizens during World War I,” says David Klempin, manager of Historic Programs & Preservation, Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau.

For more information about Grapevine, call the Grapevine Convention & Visitors Bureau at 817-410-3185 or visit [www.GrapevineTexasUSA.com](http://www.GrapevineTexasUSA.com).

###

## World War I and Southlake

Hello,

**One-hundred years ago, on April 6, 1917, the U.S. entered World War I. To help people understand what was going on over here AND “Over There,” the Southlake Historical Society is sponsoring a World War I Centennial Commemoration from 1:30-2:30 p.m., Sunday, April 9, at the gazebo in Southlake Town Square.** It’s a program all ages will learn from and enjoy. Everyone is invited, and the event is free.

We hope you will join us, and also spread the word about is program.

Featured will be heartfelt letters sent home to Texas in 1917 and '18 by a cowboy turned doughboy and letters sent to him by his mother, and the letters of a UT student who trained with the Royal Air Force and became a flying ace. Reading the letters will be Southlake Librarian Cynthia Pfledderer and Carroll grad and history buff Paul Porter, who will be dressed in an authentic WWI uniform.

A trio specializing in patriotic songs, The Sorta Sisters, will sing such favorites as “Over There,” “It’s a Long Way to Tipperary” and “K-K-K Katy.” They’ll also lead an audience sing-along.

World War I soldiers' sons, daughters and other family members in the audience will be recognized. There also will be a flag ceremony and a mayor’s proclamation. Everyone will receive a Buddy Poppy.

“We hope this program will inspire people to find their family's connection to World War I,” said Anita Robeson of the Southlake Historical Society. “So dig out the old uniform and letters in the attic and discover the stories of Grandpa or Great-Grandpa’s service.

“Free resources online and in libraries and archives will tell you which unit your family member was in and where in France the unit fought. You will be in awe of what he and the others did.”

The Southlake Historical Society is planning an exhibit for summer 2018 that tells the stories of local men who went to war and their families and communities.

From July 9-Oct. 20 at the downtown Fort Worth Central Library, the North Texas World War I Centennial Commemoration committee will present “From Cowboy to Doughboy: North Texas Mobilizes for World War I.” The exhibit will tell how life in Fort Worth and North Texas was greatly impacted by the war, which helped make Fort Worth a top Texas city. The war effort – and civic boosters such as Ben E. Keith – brought Camp Bowie and three airfields to Fort Worth in 1917.

Find out more about the effort in Texas to commemorate World War I at [www.texasworldwar1centennial/org](http://www.texasworldwar1centennial/org). All 50 states are commemorating World War I.

Hope to see you April 9 at the gazebo.

Anita Robeson  
Historian, Southlake Historical Society  
817-896-4280  
[anitarobeson@aol.com](mailto:anitarobeson@aol.com)