Public ceremonies on April 25 at State Capitol will honor Washingtonians who served in WWI

Olympia, WA - More than 1,000 Washingtonians lost their lives in World War I. These patriots, and the families that mourned them, will be honored on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, with a program at the Capitol Dome/Legislative Building’s Columbia Room (1st Floor) and a wreath laying at the Winged Victory Monument on the capitol grounds.

This month marks 100 years since the United States entered WWI. The events next Tuesday are free and open to the public, and have been organized by Washington State Historical Society (WSHS), the Washington Department of Veterans Affairs (WDVA), the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW), and the Office of Secretary of State (SOS).

The Columbia Room doors will open at 10:30 a.m., and visitors are invited to view WWI displays and sample Hot Water Gingerbread. The treat will be baked using a “Sweets without Sugar” recipe issued by the United States Food Administration’s Bureau of Conservation on
September 1, 1918. The Bureau of Conservation developed recipes to encourage wartime conservation of vital wheat and sugar so that those resources could support the troops overseas.

The program will begin at 11:00 a.m. with a welcome by Jennifer Kilmer, Director of the Washington State Historical Society, followed by:

- Posting of Colors by VFW Post 318 and Pledge of Allegiance
- Remarks by State Sen. Steve Conway; State Rep. Dick Muri; Alfie Alvarado, Director of the Washington State Department of Veteran’s Affairs; and Greg Lane, Deputy Secretary of State
- Speaker Dr. Lorraine McConaghy, historian: *Washington in the Great War*
  “While far from the Great War’s front, Washington was deeply affected by the issues of the war. With the backdrop of statewide Prohibition to Seattle’s General Strike, the ‘war to end all wars’ and the rallying cry ‘to make the world safe for democracy’ powerfully shaped the people of Washington in city neighborhoods, country towns, factories and fields.”
- A special presentation by students from Lopez Island Middle School and—via live link—the American School in Paris on *The Monuments Project: Uncovering Stories Untold*. Hear about their transatlantic collaboration using crowdsourcing and technology to research and share the stories of Washington service members who were buried in the Suresnes American Cemetery in France.

The events conclude outdoors at the Winged Victory Monument with a wreath laying ceremony by the Military Order of the World Wars, presented by the Washington State Department of Veteran’s Affairs.

Displays on view will include:

- *Washington’s Great War: World War I in Washington*. A special commemorative exhibit by the WSHS will be offered free to all public institutions, military organizations, schools, and heritage and cultural groups across the state. Contact Susan.Rohrer@wshs.wa.gov or call 360-586-0166 for details about how you can bring this exhibition to your group.
- Military Order of the World Wars *Boulevard of Remembrance Project.*
- Washington State Library and Washington State Archives Displays
- *The Monuments Project: Uncovering Stories Untold*. Transatlantic collaboration between students at Lopez Island Middle School and the American School of Paris to research and share the stories of individual WWI service members from Washington who were buried in France.
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Scan showing details of Form No. 108 issued by United States Food Administration including Hot Water Gingerbread, which will be served at the April 25, 2017 events honoring Washingtonians who served in WWI and their families.

**About The Washington State Historical Society**
1911 Pacific Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98402

The Washington State Historical Society partners with our communities to explore how history connects us all.

The Washington State Historical Society is a non-profit 501(c)3 membership organization, open to any and all individuals, families, or firms. The Society is also recognized in statute (RCW 27.34) as a trustee agency of the state of Washington with enumerated powers.

Founded in 1891 and now into its second century of service, the Washington State Historical Society is dedicated to collecting, preserving, and vividly presenting Washington’s rich and storied history. The Historical Society is comprised of a family of museums and research centers, offering a variety of services to researchers, historians, scholars, and lifelong learners. By connecting personal, local, regional, and national stories to the universality of the human experience, and collecting materials from our state that help tell those stories, the Washington State Historical Society has become indispensable to the people of Washington and a vital part of state government.