



Free Speech and Self Defense and at the National WWI Museum and Memorial

Description

Posted by Larry Gleason



KANSAS CITY, MO. The National WWI Museum and Memorial and American Public Square at Jewell will host, on Tuesday, March 11, [Speaking Freely](#). A panel discussion moderated by Margaret Talev (director of Syracuse University's Institute for Democracy, Journalism and Citizenship) will explore free speech in America its evolution, its definition and its impact on politics, education and the daily lives of U.S. residents more than 100 years after Americans entered WWI to make the world safe for democracy. The program is free onsite and online. A reception at the Museum and Memorial at 5:30 p.m. will precede the in-person event at 6 p.m.



The latest event in the Pershing Lecture Series is [An Enigma in Red Stripes and Gold Braid](#) on Tuesday, March 25 at 9:30 p.m. History remembers Erich von Falkenhayn for the “blood mill” of Verdun despite realizing early on that attrition would be ultimately disastrous. Examine his controversial legacy with Dr. Scott Stephenson. The event is free with RSVP and available in-person and online.

“ We have made partners of the women in this war... Shall we admit them only to a partnership of suffering and sacrifice and toil and not to a partnership of privilege and right?”
 U.S. PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON

Women in War Time

More than 9 million women mobilized themselves for the war effort. More than 8 million women volunteered for the American Red Cross, filling a variety of needs from knitting garments to nursing on the battlefield. Female Salvation Army workers provided assistance to service members, even near the frontlines.

On the homefront, women raised funds, worked in factories, and were key to the Land Army, a movement to maintain the agricultural in the U.S. when the primary workforce left farmlands for military service. Community organizing and activism were long established traditions in Black communities that found a heightened sense of urgency in 1917. Like that of Black men who saw their participation in the conflict as a way to further their access to equal citizenship, women too mobilized their labor on local and national levels, playing integral roles in wartime preparedness and patriotism. In addition to supporting African American soldiers in training camps, they served in organizations such as the NAACP, the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs, YMCA, the Red Cross, both in the U.S. and abroad, while continuing to fight for social reforms on the home front.

More than 11,000 women served in the U.S. Navy, including Lushia Suffridge Higbee, who was later awarded the Navy Cross. Triage nurses, camouflage artists, clerks, ambulance drivers, medical professionals, telephone operators —

In the tradition of British suffragettes practicing jiu-jitsu to protect themselves in their fight for voting rights, participants can learn self-defense in a two-hour hands-on training session. [Empower: Modern Self-Defense](#) takes place on Saturday, March 22 at 10:30 a.m. The event is free, but

registration is required (Ages 12+ only).



March National WWI Museum and Memorial events

- Saturdays | 11 a.m.: [Hands-on History](#)
- Monday, March 10, 2025 | 6:30 p.m.: [Member Insider](#)
- Tuesday, March 11, 2025 | 5:30 p.m. Reception, 6 P.M. Program: [Speaking Freely](#)
- Thursday, March 20, 2025 | 5:30 p.m.: [Modernist Happy Hour](#)
- Saturday, March 22, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.: [Empower: Modern Self-Defense](#)
- Tuesday, March 25, 2025 | 6:30 p.m.: [Pershing Lecture Series: An Enigma in Red Stripes and Gold Braid](#)
- Saturday, March 29, 2025 | 2:30 p.m.: [ASL Guided Tour](#)

The 1918 Election

Two months after the release of 168 National Woman's Party members from jail and after much strategic conversation of Carrie Chapman Catt, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson announced his support for women's suffrage on January 9, 1918. The election of 1918 also brought new members of Congress more amenable to suffrage. Using language from an amendment introduced in 1878, the 19th Amendment was introduced to and passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on January 10, 1918 and, after failing on a Senate vote, again on May 21, 1919. The Senate passed the legislation on June 4, 1919.

In order to be ratified and adopted, the legislatures of at least 36 states (at the time, a 2/3 majority of the 48 U.S. states) needed to vote for approval. By the end of 1919, 22 states had done so, but anti-suffragists had defeated the measure in Alabama, Georgia, Maryland, Mississippi, South Carolina and Virginia, with many fearing a disruption of legal segregation.

Tennessee was the last state needed to obtain ratification of the amendment — as the story goes, a 24-year-old representative received a last-minute note from his mother urging him to vote yes. Eight days after the state of Tennessee voted to ratify the amendment, it was delivered via mail to the Secretary of State, becoming law on August 26, 1920.



Woman Suffrage Petition Showing the Sign and Lady Liberty



Senator Clifton Burdick presses the Mississippi question as he shifts from one plank on the platform to suffrage amendment.

About the National WWI Museum and Memorial

The National WWI Museum and Memorial is America's leading institution dedicated to remembering, interpreting and understanding the Great War and its enduring impact on the global community. The Museum and Memorial holds the most comprehensive collection of World War I objects and documents in the world and is the second-oldest public museum dedicated to preserving the objects, history and experiences of the war. The Museum and Memorial takes visitors of all ages on an epic journey through a transformative period and shares deeply personal stories of courage, honor, patriotism and sacrifice. Designated by Congress as America's official World War I Museum and Memorial and located in downtown Kansas City, Mo., the National WWI Museum and Memorial inspires thought, dialogue and learning to make the experiences of the Great War era meaningful and relevant for present and future generations. To learn more, visit: theworldwar.org.



If interested in attending any of the Museum and Memorial's offerings contact Karis Erwin, Vice President of Marketing and Guest Services, at 816.888.8122 or kerwin@theworldwar.org.

Category

1. television

Tags

1. make the world safe for democracy

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