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Attention Newsroom—Media Advisory

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World War I Roster Books Opened for Research

(MADISON)— Fifteen volumes containing valuable information about Wisconsin's World War I soldiers, sailors, and nurses have recently been opened for research by the Wisconsin Veterans Museum Research Center (Madison, WI). These typewritten books list all of the Wisconsin men and women who served in the armed forces during the Great War, and include information about their military service. The arrangement of the volumes was made possible by a two-year processing grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Roughly 118,000 Wisconsinites served in all branches of the military during World War I. The state Adjutant General's office compiled lists of the men and women who joined the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Nurse Corps, organizing them by the county in which they lived at the time of enlistment. The individual listings include name, rank, serial number, military unit, and city of residence. In addition, many listings include street address and indicate if the person died in service.

"These records provide some very valuable genealogical information," said Russ Horton, processing archivist at the Wisconsin Veterans Museum. "They are a terrific starting point, and researchers can use this information to request more complete military and pension records from the National Archives."

In addition to the World War I roster books, the Wisconsin Veterans Museum holds the very detailed muster cards from the Spanish-American War, the records of numerous veterans organizations, and the papers and photographs of hundreds of individual veterans. The museum actively seeks to increase its holdings in these areas to better preserve the history of Wisconsin veterans. Individuals interested in donating their papers to the museum, or in conducting an oral history interview, should contact Archives Collections Manager Gayle Martinson at gayle.martinson@dva.state.wi.us or (608) 261-0536.

The Wisconsin Veterans Museum is a free public educational activity of the Wisconsin Department of Veterans Affairs and is located at 30 W. Mifflin St., across the street from the State Capitol. The museum is open Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (year round) and Sundays (April through September) from noon to 4 p.m. The museum's research center is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and by appointment. For more information, please contact Processing Archivist Russ Horton at russell.horton@dva.state.wi.us or (608) 266-2320, or join the museum online at <http://museum.dva.state.wi.us/>.