

HAILS & FAREWELLS

It is with sadness that we say goodbye to key supporters in our museum world who died in 2020:

Wayne Clark, former board member and parliamentarian, boat shop member
Donald George, former board member, Curator, author
David Haynie, long time member, local spotter pilot
Walt Montross, member
Bill Rogers, member and strong supporter of the John Smith Barge
Bob Rogers, event volunteer (he loved the egg toss!) and long-time member
Clair Michie will always be remembered as the Easter Bunny who rode in on the Elva C to commemorate Easter and the egg hunt hosted by both the Museum and the Bethany United Methodist Church.
Jan Boyd, member and volunteer on the Education Committee

Several from 2019:

Michael Collier
Howard Sheely. III

Rhea Frances
Irvin Talley

Randy Palmer
Imy Weimerskirch

And ... Hail to Linda Nessul, board President, board Secretary, board Vice President, Starry Banner editor, and event committee member; and **Henry Nessul**, Festival Halle chair, for their years of service, enthusiasm, encouragement, sponsorships, and friendship. They have relocated to the Black Hills of Wyoming (lucky humans!) where they will begin another wonderful phase of their life together. Thank you both for everything you've done for the Museum – we will miss you greatly! Lee

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

The Influenza Pandemic in Virginia (1918–1919)

Source: Paper by Addeane S. Caelleigh as published in Encyclopedia Virginia—Virginia Humanities

In 1918–1919 a new and deadly type of influenza spread across the United States and around the world. It raged through Virginia from the autumn of 1918 through the spring of 1919, spreading through cities, small towns, isolated rural areas, and military camps. By the time it waned, the epidemic had claimed the lives of at least 16,000 Virginians.

The virus, which probably originated in Kansas, was brought to Virginia by military personnel arriving in the state to take ships to Europe, where World War I was being fought. From bases such as Camp Lee, near Petersburg, it easily jumped to cities and their civilian populations, causing high fever, nausea, aches, and often leading to severe pneumonia. Authorities prohibited public gatherings and the Red Cross distributed cloth masks, but viral infections were unknown to medical science at the time and were often untreatable regardless. Doctors and nurses were driven to exhaustion caring for their patients, while in rural areas with no access to hospitals, the weight of coping fell on family members. Federal and state governments, including in Virginia, generally downplayed the severity of the epidemic so as not to cause panic or a downturn in wartime morale. In the United States, about 675,000 people died of the influenza.

More than 50 million people died worldwide, making it one of the worst epidemics in world history.