



ST. MARY'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

Jenna Guzman, Communications Director

SMCG TV 95 Station Manager

Media Inquiries: 301-475-4200, ext. 1342, or PIO@stmaryscountymd.gov

COMMISSIONERS OF ST. MARY'S COUNTY

James R. Guy, President

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NEWS RELEASE *for Immediate Release*

No. 2024 – 189

November 4, 2024, 3 p.m.

**St. Clement's Island Museum & Piney Point Lighthouse Museum to Join in
Nationwide "Bells of Peace" Tolling in Remembrance of World War I Armistice**

LEONARDTOWN, MD – The bells at St. Clement's Island Museum and Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, two historic sites overseen by St. Mary's County Government's Museum Division, will **toll on November 11, 2024, at 11 a.m.** to honor the 116,516 Americans, including the 27 St. Mary's County natives, who died in World War I.

BELLS OF PEACE: A WORLD WAR I REMEMBRANCE, launched in 2018 to commemorate the centennial of World War I, is a collaborative program announced by the World War I Centennial Commission in coordination with the Pritzker Military Museum & Library, the Society of the Honor Guard of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, whereby American citizens and organizations across the entire country are invited to toll bells in their communities twenty-one times on November 11, 2023 at 11 a.m. local time

Conceived and designed in collaboration with the nation's veterans of service with the Honor Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, the bell tolling provides a solemn reminder of the sacrifice and service of veterans of World War I, and all veterans. Bells will be tolled in communities across the nation, in places of worship, schools, town halls, public carillons, and cemeteries, to mark the anniversary of the Armistice that brought an end to hostilities, in what Americans fervently hoped had been "The War to End All Wars."

This nationwide program is designed to honor those American men and women who served over one hundred years ago during World War I. The war ended by an armistice agreement between the warring countries at 11 a.m. on November 11, 1918. World War I took place between July 1914 and November 1918 and was one of the deadliest conflicts in world history. Over nine million combatants and seven million civilians died as a result of the war. The United States officially entered the war on April 6th, 1917. Some 4.7 million Americans stepped forward to serve in uniform during the war, 2 million of them were deployed overseas to fight, and 116,516 of them never made it home.

– **MORE** –

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Our museums offer amazing programs and events throughout the year! Stay up to date by following them on Facebook at:

- St. Clement's Island Museum: [Facebook.com/SCIMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/SCIMuseum)
- Old Jail Museum & Visitor Center: [Facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum](https://www.facebook.com/TheOldJailMuseum)
- Piney Point Lighthouse Museum: [Facebook.com/1836Light](https://www.facebook.com/1836Light)
- Drayden African American Schoolhouse: [Facebook.com/DraydenSchool](https://www.facebook.com/DraydenSchool)

About the St. Mary's County Museum Division

The St. Mary's County Museum Division was established by the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to collect, preserve, research, and interpret the historic sites and artifacts which illustrate the natural and cultural histories of St. Mary's County and the Potomac River. These sites include St. Clement's Island Museum, Piney Point Lighthouse Museum, the Old Jail Museum, and the Drayden African American Schoolhouse. With this as its charter, the Museum Division serves as a resource, liaison and community advocate for all St. Mary's County public and private cultural assets. For more information, please visit: museums.stmarysmd.com.

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