

## Centennial observance to honor Brunswick County's veterans of World War I

On April 6 during this year's Commemoration of the Centennial +1 of the United States entering World War I, the names of 242 Brunswick County World War I veterans chosen for honor by residents and donors will be read aloud.

Several organizations may be participating as readers of the names of our honored veterans besides the Brunswick Town Chapter NSDAR and Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range. Included will be Dave Lewis, representing the Brunswick County Historical Society; Carl Mauney, a re-enactor of a World War I group from Pennsylvania; and Norma Lee Eckard, a member of the Southport Historical Society. The public is welcome and there is no charge.

This year, 2018, is a special year for the Friends of Fort Caswell Rifle Range. What began seven years ago as an effort to save an irreplaceable piece of history, a relic from 1918, reaches a 100-year milestone in May.

The focus since November 2017 has been on the veterans in Brunswick County and their sacrifices. This continues with two yearly events: Honor a Brunswick County World War I Veteran and the Derby Day fundraiser. Presently, the nonprofit has received donations for the planned World War I Memorial at the site of the 1918 Fort Caswell Rifle Range. The thermometer at the right side of the website, [caswell-riflerange.com](http://caswell-riflerange.com), indicates the amount of funds still needed for a memorial. It also shows the number of Brunswick County veterans who have been honored and the number not yet honored.

Anyone who wants to honor a World War I veteran or to help support the nonprofit can contact the Friends at [ftcaswell-riflerange@gmail.com](mailto:ftcaswell-riflerange@gmail.com).

After reading the website profiles of those who served in World War I, people may realize how many young men and women from Brunswick County volunteered or heeded the call to service and

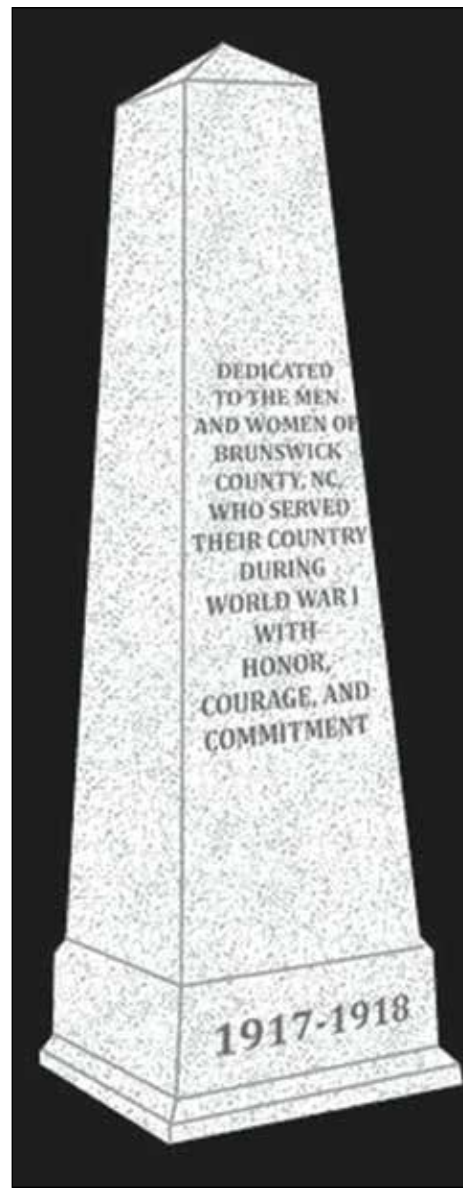


Image contributed

**This rendering shows the memorial stone that will be placed beside the historic 1918 World War I Fort Caswell Rifle Range on Nov. 11.**

traveled across the ocean to fight with the Allies. Many of them had never before left the county or state. Many of them left behind families. Many of them did not return.

At the same time, an important date in history is the signing of the Armistice on Nov. 11, 1918, a day that is commemorated every year, known now as Veterans Day. This year, we commemorate the centennial of the signing of the Armistice, when the war came to an end and the death and destruction from the war in Europe ended.

The 2018 Derby Day fundraiser is also being planned. It will take place at the Caswell Dunes Clubhouse on May 5 from 2:30 to 7 p.m. See the fundraising section on the website for details. These two events sponsored by the Friends of the Fort Caswell Rifle Range earn funds to support the men and women that served in World War I by honoring a veteran, the continued stabilization efforts of the 100-year-old structure and a memorial stone placed in memory of those who served.