

Bells Tolled to Honor WWI Service Members

The bells of the historic Chatham County Courthouse tolled slowly—21 times—on Sunday, November 11, 2018, beginning at 11:00 AM to commemorate the Centennial of the WWI Armistice. The 21 tolls of the bell symbolize the nation's highest honor.

Chatham County was one of thousands of cities, counties, towns, patriotic organizations, places of worship, historical associations, museums, institutions of learning, and residential communities that tolled their bells at 11:00am local time as part of a nationwide commemoration honoring veterans. All branches of the US military service worldwide—every military ship, base, post, station and installation—also received orders by their command to toll bells or render honors 21 times during the eleventh hour to commemorate all who wore the uniform 100 years ago.

[Chatham County's Commissioners passed a resolution](#) in support of the bell-tolling event and County staff arranged for the special 21-tolls to honor all who served and sacrificed in WWI. The Chatham County Historical Association publicized the event and encouraged individuals and groups across the county to participate by ringing bells of their own.

More information about Chatham County's experience of WWI can be found on the Chatham County Historical Association website: <http://chathamhistory.org> and two exhibits featuring local WWI history are on display during November—one in the Chatham Community Library's Local History and Genealogy area and the other in the Chatham Historical Museum, which also displays several WWI items in its permanent exhibits. The Chatham Historical Museum is open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

