



Main Library, Monroe   Edwards Memorial Library, Marshville   Union West Regional Library, Indian Trail   Waxhaw Library, Waxhaw

**For Immediate Release**

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## **When World War II was Fought Off North Carolina's Beaches**

**May 16, 2016, Monroo, NC** - At 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 22, Union County Public Library, in partnership with the North Carolina Humanities Council, will welcome renowned historian Kevin Duffus to discuss the period during World War II when the war was waged just off North Carolina's coast.

For this program, held at the Monroe Library, Duffus, 2014-15 NC Historian of the Year, has compiled a stunning collection of eyewitness stories of the merchant sailors, Coast Guard recruits and coastal residents who survived the events.

“For the first few months of America’s involvement in World War II, the fate of the world hung in the balance off the beaches of the United States,” says Duffus. “Three hundred ninety-seven ships were sunk or damaged, and 5,000 people died. For seven months, 65 German U-boats hunted merchant vessels, practically unopposed, within view of coastal communities. The greatest of these attacks occurred off North Carolina’s Outer Banks, though this period of our state’s history is barely known by most residents.”

According to Duffus, “No matter where this program unfolds across the state, the most common response is, ‘I had no idea of the extent of this disaster!’”

For those with any interest in U.S. or North Carolina history, or an interest in our barrier islands, this program is not to be missed.

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