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www.wwiimemorialfriends.org

Friends of the National World War II Memorial

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Contributions to Friends are tax deductible.

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FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Honoring and Preserving the National Memory of World War II

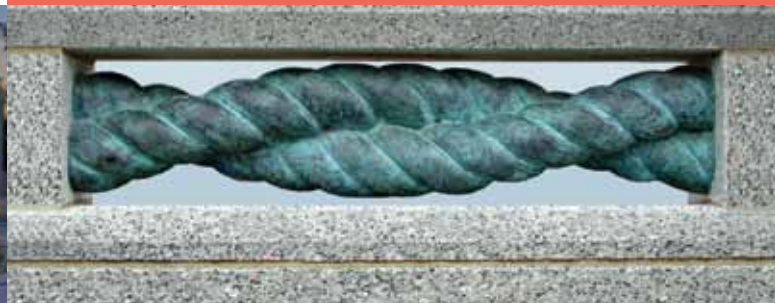
We are now in this war.
Every man, woman and child.

Our strength is our unity of purpose.
There can be no end save victory.

– Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1941

This is a victory of liberty over tyranny.
We can now turn to the grave task of
preserving the peace.

– Harry S. Truman, 1945



In World War II, America's sons and daughters, friends and neighbors—sixteen million strong—fought on the battle front to preserve freedom and civilization itself. At home, the entire nation united in a common purpose to support the troops and win the war. When peace came, more than 400,000 had sacrificed their lives. Idealism, patriotism, valor, courage, and sacrifice—this is the legacy of World War II. Keeping this legacy alive is the commitment of Friends of the National World War II Memorial.

To commemorate this seminal event, the Memorial was built on the National Mall's symbolic centerline of American history, the Washington Monument representing the defining event of the 18th century, the Lincoln Memorial the 19th century, and the WWII Memorial the 20th century—a moment in time that changed forever American life and the direction of world history.

Friends was founded in 2007 by a group of private citizens involved in the Memorial from its inception to its dedication. A not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, Friends works to make the Memorial a place of commemoration and celebration for Americans of all ages. Its activities focus on creating an inviting and inspiring venue to remember the sacrifices on the battle front and to rekindle the American spirit of unity and common purpose on the home front that was vital to achieving victory.



“I’m trembling all over. To think that I lived to see this.”

- Wife of deceased WWII veteran in front of the Wall of Gold Stars



“Nothing can explain how honored I felt for just being there.”

- WWII veteran visiting the Memorial



“I am so grateful that my son was able to visit this place with one of his great grandfathers.”



- Mother visiting with her son and her husband's grandfather, a WWII veteran of the Battle of the Bulge



MISSION

- ★ To ensure that the legacy, lessons, and sacrifices of World War II are not forgotten
- ★ To plan and support commemorative and celebratory events at the Memorial
- ★ To contribute to the continuing care of the Memorial and its park-like grounds

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATIONS

To carry out its goals, Friends has signed a formal Partners Agreement with the National Park Service, the federal agency responsible for the Memorial. Friends also collaborates with the Military District of Washington, the Honor Fight Network, national veterans’ organizations, and other allied groups in planning and staging activities at the Memorial.

CURRENT AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

In cooperation with the National Park Service, Friends has the lead responsibility in planning and staging major national commemorative events at the Memorial on Memorial Day, Veterans Day, V-E Day, V-J Day, and Pearl Harbor Day. Wreath laying ceremonies remembering the sacrifices on fields of battle, names that resonate such as Midway, Guadalcanal, Anzio, Normandy, Battle of the Bulge, Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa, will also be held.

Working with the National Park Service, Friends is developing a volunteer docents program to enhance the educational experience of visitors at the Memorial and is initiating a volunteer gardeners program to help care for the Memorial’s beautifully landscaped grounds. Friends is also planning a series of public WWII Memorial Legacy Lectures to be given by preeminent American historians and others on the lasting significance and impact of WWII on American life. The lectures will be recorded and their texts published.

Future projects include producing a visitor guide on the design and symbolic iconography of the Memorial and a teacher guide on World War II and the Memorial for mid-level and high school students planning to visit Washington and the Memorial.

JOIN THE FRIENDS

The National World War II Memorial is a powerful and inspiring narrative of what being an American means and what our nation’s fundamental values are. It is a timeless reminder to every generation of the moral strength and awesome power that can flow when a free people are united in a just and common cause.

Building the Memorial was a great national undertaking involving the whole country. An enthusiastic, patriotic outpouring of contributions—small and large—from veterans, school children, individuals, civic organizations, veterans groups, foundations, and corporations raised the money necessary to build it. The success of the fundraising campaign was a moving reminder of the “can do” spirit of America during World War II. But building the Memorial is not enough. We need to ensure that it becomes all that it was intended to be and can be.

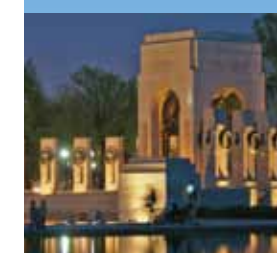
To realize the Memorial’s promise, continued private donations are needed. Please join Friends in making the Memorial a place of reverence and inspiration where Americans of every generation can honor the nation’s legacy of sacrifice in the cause of freedom and renew the spirit of unity and common purpose—so critical during World War II—to help America face the challenges of the 21st century.

FOUR FREEDOMS

Beyond the war lies the peace....
the rights of all men everywhere

- Freedom of speech
- Freedom of worship
- Freedom from want
- Freedom from fear

– Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1941



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