

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**PULITZER-PRIZE WINNING JOURNALIST/AUTHOR RICK ATKINSON KICKS  
OFF WWII MEMORIAL LECTURE SERIES**

WASHINGTON—Rick Atkinson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of numerous books on World War II, will speak on the lasting significance and impact of the war on America and the world in the first of the annual Friends of the National World War II Memorial Legacy Lecture Series.

Atkinson's books include *An Army at Dawn*, which won the Pulitzer Prize for history, *The Day of Battle*, *The Long Gray Line*, *In the Company of Soldiers*, and *Crusade*. He recently finished *The Guns at Last Light: The War in Europe, 1944-1945*, the last of a trilogy of books on the U.S. military's role in the liberation of Europe in World War II. He is a former staff writer and senior editor at *The Washington Post*.

Retired Army Lieutenant General Mick Kicklighter, Chairman of Friends of the National World War II Memorial, said, "We are so honored to have a historian as prominent as Rick Atkinson discussing the importance of World War II and the influence it has had, and continues to have, on this country and on people and nations around the globe. This lecture, and our future lectures, will shed light on an event that must never be forgotten."

The lecture is titled "History, Memory, and the Legacy of World War II," and will be held on November 12<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM at National Defense University's Lincoln Hall Auditorium at 300 5th Avenue at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C. There will be a reception afterwards. Doors open at 3:30 PM.

The World War II Memorial opened in 2004 and honors the more than 16 million who served in the U.S. armed forces, the more than 400,000 who lost their lives, and all who supported the war effort from the home front.

To register for the event, [please click here](#).

**About The Friends of the National World War II Memorial, Inc. ([www.wwiimemorialfriends.org](http://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org)):** Founded in 2007, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to ensuring that the legacy, lessons, and sacrifices of World War II are not forgotten and enhancing the educational experience for visitors to the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. The nonprofit organization was established by former American Battle Monuments Commission members, who were responsible for implementing a Congressional mandate to recommend a site and a design and to fund and build the National World War II Memorial. They were concerned with making the Memorial all that it was intended to be by its planners: an open, welcoming, gathering place on the National Mall; a place of reverent remembrance; and a place to honor and celebrate the spirit of America during World War II. With growing private support, the cooperation of the National Park Service, the Military District of Washington, and others, these hopes are being

realized.

For more information, please contact Friends of the National World War II Memorial's Executive Director Holly Rotondi at 202.675.2017 or [hrotondi@wwiimemorialfriends.org](mailto:hrotondi@wwiimemorialfriends.org).

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