

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 8, 2015

WORLD WAR II VETERANS AND ALLIED NATIONS
TO COMMEMORATE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY AT THE WWII MEMORIAL
Ceremony to be followed by “Arsenal of Democracy World War II Victory Capitol Flyover”

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) and the National Park Service (NPS) will pay tribute to the Greatest Generation during a special event at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Friday, May 8, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Allied Forces Victory in the Atlantic and the end of World War II in Europe.

Record numbers, including hundreds of World War II veterans, are expected to gather at the World War II Memorial to mark this historic occasion.

As part of the ceremony, more than a dozen World War II veterans and representatives of the United States and the embassies of Allied Nations will lay wreaths at the “Freedom Wall” of the Memorial in memory of the more than 400,000 Americans and 60 million people killed worldwide during the deadliest military conflict in human history.

Alex Kershaw, renowned historian and author of “The Bedford Boys: The Story of Bedford, Virginia’s Extraordinary D-Day Sacrifice” and “The Liberator: One Soldier’s 500-Day Odyssey from the Beaches of Sicily to the Gates of Dachau,” will serve as the event’s Master of Ceremonies and Expert Historian.

Friends Chairman Josiah Bunting III will speak on behalf of Friends and Karen Cucurullo, acting Superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, will speak on behalf of NPS. The Military District of Washington will provide military support for the event.

The ceremony will be followed by the “Arsenal of Democracy World War II Victory Capitol Flyover,” which will include dozens of World War II aircraft flying in 15 historically sequenced warbird formations overhead. The formations will represent the war’s major battles, from Pearl Harbor through the final air assault on Japan, and conclude with a missing man formation to “Taps.” The Flyover is set to start at 12:10 p.m. and last approximately 40 minutes.

About Friends of the National World War II Memorial (www.wwiimemorialfriends.org):

Founded in 2007, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to ensuring that the legacy, lessons, and sacrifices of World War II are not forgotten. To meet this mission, Friends sponsors an annual public lecture series featuring prominent historians; provides teachers with curriculum materials; and collects and archives video interviews of World War II veterans and other members of the Greatest Generation. Additionally, Friends has the lead responsibility in planning and staging five or more major national commemorative events annually and each summer sponsors a dozen free public performances of military bands at the Memorial. Friends relies on private support to breathe new life into the Memorial and to ensure that it continues to serve as a living lesson for all Americans.

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For media inquiries:

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Arsenal of Democracy Flyover:

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Alternate Flyover Viewing Location for Media:

Embassy of Canada
Pam Lambo, 202.682.7713 / pam.lambo@international.gc.ca