

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND VETERANS TO GATHER AT WWII MEMORIAL
TO CELEBRATE LIFE OF AMBASSADOR F. HAYDN WILLIAMS**

“Father” of WWII Memorial to be remembered by Memorial designer Friedrich St. Florian and others.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will hold a Celebration of Life service at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Friday, May 20, 2016 at 10:30 a.m. to honor the extraordinary life of [Ambassador F. Haydn Williams](#), the “father” of the WWII Memorial, who passed away last month at the age of 96.

Friends, family, and former colleagues will gather at the Memorial to honor the time and commitment that Ambassador Williams dedicated to ensuring that the Memorial would stand on the National Mall as a lasting tribute to the “Greatest Generation.”

A World War II veteran, Ambassador Williams served as chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission’s (ABMC) National WWII Memorial Committee with the primary responsibility for the site and the design of the National WWII Memorial.

WWII Memorial designer Friedrich St. Florian will provide personal reflections about his colleague and friend.

Retired Army Major General John Herrling, who served as the Secretary of the ABMC from 1995-2005, will give remarks on behalf of the ABMC, the federal agency that was authorized by Congress to establish the Memorial.

Ambassador Williams’ grandniece, Kathryn Evans, will offer remarks on behalf of the family.

Friends' vice chairman Rolland Kidder, a former member of the ABMC’s WWII Memorial Committee and current ABMC commissioner, will serve as the master of ceremonies.

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 honoring and preserving the national memory of World War II. 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:

Friends of the National World War II Memorial
Holly Rotondi, Executive Director
202.675.2017 / hrotondi@wwiimemorialfriends.org