

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 29, 2016

RENOWNED AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN
DR. CRAIG SYMONDS TO DELIVER WWII MEMORIAL LECTURE IN WASHINGTON, DC
*Sponsored by the Friends of National World War II Memorial, the 4th annual WWII Memorial Legacy Lecture
will be held at the National Defense University on Tuesday, December 6.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will host the 4th Annual “Haydn Williams” World War II Memorial Legacy Lecture on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at 1:30 PM at the National Defense University’s Lincoln Hall Auditorium at 260 5th Avenue, SW at Fort McNair in Washington, DC. The lecture is part of the Friends’ two-day Pearl Harbor 75th Anniversary Commemoration.

This year’s Legacy Lecturer is Dr. Craig Symonds, an award-winning author and historian.

Dr. Symonds is Professor Emeritus at the United States Naval Academy. During a thirty-year teaching career at the Academy, including a four-year term as Department Chair, Dr. Symonds was the first person to win both the Academy’s “Excellence in Teaching” award and its “Excellence in Research” award. He also received the Department of the Navy’s Superior Civilian Service medal on three occasions. He was Professor of Strategy at the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island, and at the Britannia Royal Naval College in Dartmouth, England. After retirement in 2005, Dr. Symonds returned to the Naval Academy for one year in 2011-12 to serve as “The Class of 1957 Distinguished Professor of American Naval History.” In 2014, he was awarded the Dudley Knox Medal for Lifetime Achievement by the Naval Historical Foundation.

Dr. Symonds is the author or editor of twenty-eight books, including prize-winning biographies of Civil War figures Joseph E. Johnston, Patrick Cleburne, and Franklin Buchanan. His 2005 book, *Decision at Sea: Five Naval Battles that Shaped American History*, won the Theodore and Franklin D. Roosevelt Prize for Naval History, and his 2008 book, *Lincoln and His Admirals: Abraham Lincoln, the U.S. Navy, and the Civil War*, won the Baroness Prize, the Laney Prize, the Lyman Prize, the Lincoln Prize, and the Abraham Lincoln Institute Book Award. He won the Nevins-Freeman Prize in 2009. More recently he has focused on World War II naval issues. His book on *The Battle of Midway* was published in 2011, and *NEPTUNE: The Allied Invasion of Europe and the D-Day Landings* won both the John Barry Prize and the Samuel Eliot Morison Prize.

Dr. Symonds’ WWII Memorial Legacy Lecture, titled “Infamy: The Japanese Attack on Pearl Harbor,” will be followed by a Question & Answer segment with the National Defense University students and other guests.

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.

The Haydn Williams World War II Memorial Legacy Lecture, a signature program of Friends, is an annual public lecture series that features preeminent historians and others speaking on the lasting significance and impact of World War II on America and the world.

The 2016 Haydn Williams World War II Memorial Legacy Lecture is made possible through the generous endowment of the late [Ambassador F. Haydn Williams](#), a WWII veteran, former chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission’s WWII Memorial Site and Design Committee, and chairman emeritus of Friends of the National World War II Memorial.

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; hosts an annual teachers conference in Washington, DC; 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.

###

For media inquiries:

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