

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF BATAAN TO BE COMMEMORATED AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

*A wreath will be laid at the Pacific Arch of the Memorial in honor of
the 120,000 U.S. and Filipino Troops who served during this historic battle of WWII.*

Washington, DC – On Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 11:30 a.m., the Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will be joined by World War II veterans and their families to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Bataan at the National World War II Memorial.

Nearly 75 years ago, forces of the Imperial Japanese Army and Navy invaded Luzon, Philippines along with several islands in the Philippine Archipelago following their surprise military attack on United States military installations on the island of Oahu in Hawaii. General Douglas MacArthur, Commander-in-Chief of all American and Filipino forces in the Philippines, consolidated all Luzon-based units on the Bataan Peninsula to fight against the Japanese invaders as the Bataan peninsula and the island of Corregidor were the only remaining Allied strongholds in the region. Despite a lack of supplies, American and Filipino – many of whom were U.S. Nationals – forces managed to fight the Japanese for three months. As the combined American and Filipino forces made a last stand, the delay cost the Japanese valuable time and prevented immediate victory across the Pacific. On April 9, 1942, the American and Filipino defenders of Bataan surrendered. Soon afterwards, more than 60,000 Filipino and 15,000 American prisoners of war were forced into the infamous Bataan Death March.

To mark this significant battle in U.S. history, Friends will host a brief ceremony and wreath presentation at the World War II Memorial's Pacific Arch in honor of the 120,000 U.S. and Filipino troops who served during the Battle of Bataan and in remembrance of the 10,000 killed and 75,000 imprisoned.

Retired Army Major General Antonio (Tony) Taguba, the second American citizen of Philippine birth to be promoted to general officer rank in the Army and national chairman of the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project, will offer personal remarks during the ceremony. General Taguba's father was a soldier in the 45th Infantry Regiment, Philippine Division (Philippine Scouts), who fought in the Battle of Bataan and survived the Bataan Death March.

Who: World War II Veterans
Major General Antonio (Tony) Taguba, USA (Ret.)
Friends of the National World War II Memorial Board Members
U.S. Army Band "Pershing's Own" Bugler

Where: National World War II Memorial
17th Street between Constitution and Independence Avenues
Washington, DC

When: Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 11:30 AM

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.

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