

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
July 25, 2017

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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF GUADALCANAL TO BE COMMEMORATED AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

*A wreath will be laid at the Pacific Arch of the Memorial in honor of the 60,000 Allies who served
and in remembrance of the more than 7,000 killed during the Battle of Guadalcanal.*

Washington, DC – On August 7, 1942, Allied forces -- predominantly U.S. Marines -- launched a surprise attack, landing on the islands of Guadalcanal, Tulagi, and Florida in the southern Solomon Islands.

The Allies overwhelmed the outnumbered Japanese and captured Tulagi and Florida, as well as Henderson Field on Guadalcanal. Powerful American and Australian naval forces supported the landings. The Japanese made several attempts to retake Guadalcanal, but, in December, abandoned their efforts and evacuated their remaining forces by February 1943.

The Guadalcanal campaign was a significant strategic combined arms Allied victory in the Pacific Theater. Along with the Battle of Midway, the Battle of Guadalcanal has been called a turning point in the war against Japan.

During the August 7th ceremony at the World War II Memorial, WWII veterans and representatives of the Allied Nations that took part in the campaign will present wreaths at the Pacific Arch of the Memorial in honor of the 60,000 Allies who served and in remembrance of the more than 7,000 killed during the Battle of Guadalcanal.

Who: **Josiah Bunting III**, Chairman, Friends of the National World War II Memorial
WWII Veterans and Families of Those Who Served
H.E. Mr. Mahe Tupouniua, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Tonga to the United Nations
Lieutenant Colonel Benjamin Pitt, Military Attache, Embassy of New Zealand
Air Vice Marshall Alan Clements, Head of Australian Defence Staff Defense Attaché, Embassy of Australia
Military District of Washington

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

When: Monday, August 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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