

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 20, 2017

**WWII VETERANS AND WAR ORPHANS TO SHARE PERSONAL HISTORIES  
DURING SUMMER TEACHERS CONFERENCE HOSTED BY  
FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL**

*The two discussion panels are part of a five-day 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Teachers Conference being held as part of Friends ongoing efforts to honor and preserve the national memory of WWII.*

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will host two very special discussion panels on Friday, July 28, 2017 at Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center. The first panel discussion, featuring WWII veterans, will begin promptly at 11:15 a.m. and the second panel discussion with WWII war orphans will begin at 1:30 p.m.

The two panels will offer insight into the challenges that WWII veterans and the children of the fallen WWII service members faced during and after the war and offer reflections on the legacy and lessons of their generation for today's generation.

The WWII veterans panel will feature three WWII veterans, including Colonel Charles E. McGee, one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen; Harry Miller, an Army veteran of the Battle of the Bulge; and Colonel James Riffe, an Army veteran of the Battle of Okinawa.

The second discussion panel will feature members of the American World War II Orphans Network whose fathers' were killed during WWII, including Arthur Chotin, son of Max Chotin who was killed in Belgium on November 3, 1945; Walter Carter, son of Elmer Carter who was killed in France on June 17, 1944; Nancy White Kragh, daughter of Clarence White killed while a prisoner of war aboard a Japanese hellship on January 11, 1945; and Robert Meek Jr., son of Robert Meek killed over Italy on October 19, 1944.

Throughout the panel discussion, the veterans will share first-hand accounts of their experiences and stories from World War II. The panel discussion is open to the public and will be moderated by WUSA9 Weekday Morning Anchor Mike Hydeck. Those wishing to attend the event are encouraged to [RSVP due to limited seating](#).

The WWII Veterans and War Orphans Discussion Panels are part of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial's annual Teachers Conference held each summer in Washington, DC. The conference is part of Friends' continuing efforts to honor and preserve the national memory of World War II and requires participants to return home to fulfill a community service project with the intent of bringing the WWII era spirit of unity to countless towns and cities across the country and help to create the next Greatest Generation of tomorrow.

The Friends of the National World War II Memorial's education programs are generously supported by the *Jack C. Taylor / Enterprise Rent-A-Car WWII Memorial Education Endowment*. The late Jack Taylor served his country as a U.S. Navy fighter pilot in the skies over the Pacific in World War II. Then, as did so many members of The Greatest Generation, he returned home to raise a family and start a business. The company he eventually founded – Enterprise Holdings – grew from a tiny start-up to become one of the business world's great success stories. Enterprise Holdings remains a privately held and family owned business today, with the third generation of the Taylor family beginning to take leadership.

**About Friends of the National World War II Memorial ([www.wwiimemorialfriends.org](http://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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For media inquiries:

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