

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 27, 2015

**FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL
RECEIVES \$125,000 FROM WALMART**

Gift will help honor and preserve the national memory of World War II.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) has received a \$125,000 gift from Bentonville, Arkansas-based Walmart. Walmart joins Friends as a “Founding Sponsor” to support the organization’s mission of honoring and preserving the legacy, lessons, and sacrifices of World War II. Walmart associate and WWII veteran Loren Wade of Winfield, Kansas formally presented the gift to Friends at his 103rd community birthday party hosted by Walmart on Saturday, July 25th in Winfield, Kansas.

“Friends is grateful for Walmart’s support,” says Josiah Bunting III, chairman of Friends. “This donation will help us to continue our important work of bringing honor and recognition to our World War II veterans and the ‘Greatest Generation’ while preserving for future generations the spirit of unity and shared purpose, which defined the character of our country during the war.”

Walmart has a long history of supporting our nation’s service members and veterans.

In 2000, Walmart presented a check for \$14.5 million to Sen. Bob Dole, chairman of the National World War II Memorial Campaign charged with the raising the necessary funds to build a memorial honoring the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S. during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from home.

Walmart associates at more than 3,000 Walmart stores, SAM’S Clubs, and distribution centers nationwide coordinated various activities to raise funds and increase awareness of the memorial campaign. Each location also served as a collection site for donations from the community.

Since its dedication in 2004, more than 40 million have visited the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC and it has taken its place as one of the nation’s historic icons on the National Mall.

The Friends’ Founding Sponsors program brings together companies and individuals who demonstrate patriotic responsibility while contributing to the American spirit of united enterprise. As a Founding Sponsor, Walmart will provide vital support for the Friends’ commemorative and educational programs.

Walmart joins the Friends’ other Founding Sponsors: AT&T Foundation; Carolands Preservation Foundation; Crawford Taylor Foundation; Exxon Mobil; General Motors Foundation; The Hershey Company; JP Morgan; Trinity Industries; Viad Corporation; and Ambassador F. Haydn Williams, Chairman Emeritus, 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 ensuring that the legacy, lessons, and sacrifices of World War II are not forgotten. 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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