

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 17, 2018

**VETERANS TO GATHER AT NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL ON MEMORIAL DAY  
TO REMEMBER 400,000 AMERICANS LOST DURING WORLD WAR II**  
*WWII “War Orphan” to offer personal reflections on service and sacrifices of WWII generation.*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) and the National Park Service (NPS) will pay tribute to the more than 400,000 Americans who lost their lives during WWII in a special Memorial Day Observance at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Monday, May 28, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

The ceremony will feature a keynote address by Arthur Chotin, whose father Army SSgt. Max Chotin died in Belgium on November 3, 1945 at the age of 30. His son, Arthur, was just shy of 11 months old. Arthur was raised by his mother, Sylvia, who never remarried. He has had a distinguished career in law and has had leadership positions on several presidential campaigns. Mr. Chotin is a member of the American WWII Orphans Network, working to keep his father’s memory, and the memories of all who died during WWII, alive in the hearts and minds of current and future generations.

As part of the commemoration, nearly twenty World War II veterans will lay wreaths at the Freedom Wall in remembrance of their fallen brothers and sisters. Following a pre-ceremony “Parade of Heroes” at 8:45 a.m., each of the WWII veterans will be individually introduced. Among the WWII veterans in attendance will be PGA Golf Professional Hall of Famer Bob Toski.

ABC7/WJLA-TV news anchor, Jonathan Elias, will serve as the event’s Master of Ceremonies.

Friends’ chairman Josiah Bunting III and Patricia Trap, acting superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, will offer welcome remarks. The Military District of Washington will provide military support for the event.

**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 and to creating the next “Greatest Generation” of tomorrow. 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, staging, and funding five or more major national commemorative events annually and is currently sponsoring a national four-year World War II 75th anniversary commemoration. 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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