

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 11, 2018

**FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL  
RECEIVES \$1 MILLION FROM CRAWFORD TAYLOR FOUNDATION**

*Gift in memory of Jack C. Taylor, WWII veteran and founder of Enterprise Rent-A-Car, will fund education programs through the “Jack C. Taylor / Enterprise Rent-A-Car WWII Memorial Education Endowment.”*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) has received a \$1 million gift from the Crawford Taylor Foundation, in support of the “Jack C. Taylor / Enterprise Rent-A-Car WWII Memorial Education Endowment.” The late Mr. Taylor and his family made an initial investment of \$1 million in 2015 to create the Endowment which allowed Friends to launch a summer teachers conference in 2016. This latest grant will sustain and grow the education efforts and activities sponsored by Friends, particularly the annual teachers conference in Washington, DC.

“Jack Taylor embodied the values and character of the Greatest Generation. It is these values which we hope to instill in current and future generations through important education programs supported by this significant gift,” says Josiah Bunting III, chairman of Friends. “The Crawford Taylor Foundation’s commitment of a million dollars to our education efforts demonstrates an endorsement of our mission to ensure that, in Winston Churchill’s words: ‘succeeding generations must not be allowed to forget’ the sacrifices and achievements of the American people and their armed forces in winning the greatest war in history.”

Mr. Taylor was a World War II veteran, having served as an F6F Hellcat fighter from the decks of the USS Essex and the USS Enterprise. He earned two Distinguished Flying Crosses and the Navy Air Medal. In 1957, Mr. Taylor established a car rental business, eventually named “Enterprise Rent-A-Car” after the aircraft carrier he served on during WWII. In 1997, Mr. Taylor created the Crawford Taylor Foundation, which supports efforts in the St. Louis region to improve the community, address women and youth issues, animal welfare, and the environment.

Over the past three years, the Jack C. Taylor / Enterprise Rent-A-Car WWII Memorial Education Endowment has enabled Friends to enhance its education initiatives and has helped Friends further its mission to create the next “Greatest Generation” of tomorrow through impactful education programs. By engaging the public through the Friends website, social media, and ceremonies at the WWII Memorial, Friends is keeping the memories, stories, and lessons of our WWII generation at the forefront of public consciousness. Through the annual Friends of the National World War II Memorial Teachers Conference in Washington, DC, Friends brings teachers from across the country to our nation’s capital to learn about the everyday men and women of the WWII generation and facilitates community service initiatives across America with the goal of promoting critical thinking and instilling the values of community engagement in our young people.

This significant gift from the Crawford Taylor Foundation will help Friends to ensure that the legacy, lessons, and values of Mr. Taylor and the World War II era are not forgotten and, more, that the character and spirit of the Greatest Generation is passed on to our current and future generations.

**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.

###

For media inquiries:

**Friends of the National World War II Memorial**  
Thalia Ertman, Public Education Officer  
202.543.0878 / [tertman@wwiimemorialfriends.org](mailto:tertman@wwiimemorialfriends.org)