

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
September 4, 2018

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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION AVALANCHE (SALERNO) TO BE COMMEMORATED AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Wreaths will be laid at the Atlantic Arch of the Memorial in honor of the 190,000 Allies who served and in remembrance of the more than 13,000 Allies killed, wounded, or missing during Operation Avalanche.

Washington, D.C. – On Sunday, September 9th at 11:30 a.m., the Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will host a brief ceremony and wreath presentation at the World War II Memorial’s Atlantic Arch to mark the 75th anniversary of Operation Avalanche, the 1943 Allied landings near the port of Salerno as part of the Allied invasion of Italy.

On September 9, 1943, U.S. and British troops landed around Salerno with the primary objectives to seize the port of Naples to ensure resupply and to cut across to the east coast, trapping the Axis troops further south. The U.S. 5th Army landed along the Salerno coastline while British Commandos and U.S. Rangers landed on the peninsula itself. However, the German Army with some Italian support mounted a heavy counterattack on the beachhead. The 82nd Airborne was called in for support and by the 15th, Salerno was in Allied hands. With the Salerno beachhead secure, the 5th Army could begin to attack northwest and by early October, the whole of southern Italy was in Allied hands.

During the September 9th ceremony at the World War II Memorial, Friends Chairman Josiah Bunting III will offer brief remarks. WWII veterans and representatives of the Allied Nations that took part in the campaign will present wreaths at the Atlantic Arch of the Memorial in honor of the 190,000 Allies who served and in remembrance of the more than 13,000 Allies killed, wounded, and missing during Operation Avalanche.

The Friends of the National World War II Memorial's WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration is generously sponsored by AT&T. Generous support has also been provided by the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation and Worthington Industries.

Who: World War II Veterans
Josiah Bunting III, Chairman, Friends of the National World War II Memorial
Representative from the British Embassy
Representative from the Canadian Embassy
Military District of Washington

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

When: Sunday, September 9, 2018 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 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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