

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**HUNDREDS TO GATHER AT NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL
ON VETERANS DAY TO HONOR THE “GREATEST GENERATION”**

WWII veteran to give ceremony's keynote address, joined by nearly 20 other WWII veterans in wreath presentation.

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 16 million men and women who served with the U.S. armed forces during World War II during a special Veterans Day event at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, November 11, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

WWII veteran Mr. Ewing H. Miller will deliver the ceremony's keynote address. Mr. Miller served in the U.S. Army Air Forces from 1942 to 1945 as a B-24 heavy bomber pilot assigned to the 15th Air Force, 449th Bomb Group, 719 Squadron (The Flying Horsemen) which flew from a base in Italy. Nicknamed “Wing” by his fellow flyers, Mr. Miller flew over 20 missions. In February 1945, his plane was downed by a direct flack bust in the bomb bay. Mr. Miller was the sole survivor. He spent the rest of the war as a prisoner of war.

Mr. Miller says he participates in the ceremonies at the WWII Memorial as a way to honor his lost crew members and friends.

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

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

As part of the ceremony, Mr. Miller and more than a dozen other World War II veterans will place wreaths at the Freedom Wall in remembrance of the more than 400,000 Americans who lost their lives during WWII.

A pre-ceremony concert, beginning at 8:30 a.m., will feature a performance by WWII veteran Gerald Mendelson of Lodi, New Jersey, a professional piano and organ player whose career spans eight decades, beginning when he was 16. Mr. Mendelson enlisted in the U.S. Navy the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor and spent a year flying torpedo bombers off the USS Cabot, in the Pacific Theater.

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. 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 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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