

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
January 29, 2019

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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF KWAJALEIN TO BE COMMEMORATED AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Ceremony to mark the Pacific campaign of World War II on the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

Washington, D.C. – On Thursday, January 31st at 11:30 a.m., the Friends of the National World War II Memorial will hold a brief ceremony and wreath presentation to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Kwajalein, an amphibious assault on Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands as part of the Pacific Campaign of World War II.

The Battle of Kwajalein took place from January 31 to February 3, 1944, during which the United States launched a successful twin assault on the main islands of Kwajalein in the south and Roi-Namur in the north. This battle represented both the next step in the American “island-hopping” march to Japan and a significant morale victory, as it was the first time the Americans penetrated the “outer ring” of the Japanese Pacific sphere.

During the January 31st ceremony at the World War II Memorial, WWII veterans and their families will present wreaths at the Pacific Arch of the Memorial in honor of the nearly 47,000 Americans who served and in remembrance of the 348 Americans killed and more than 1,600 wounded or missing during the Battle of Kwajalein.

Friends is the only organization hosting a four-year 75th anniversary commemoration, marking every battle in which American troops participated during WWII. The Friends’ WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration kicked off on Pearl Harbor Day 2016 and will continue through the 75th anniversary of V-J Day on September 2, 2020. Friends has also assembled a prestigious and supportive WWII 75th Anniversary Honorary Committee, chaired by Senator Bob Dole, who have all signed on because they believe in Friends’ mission to honor the Greatest Generation through 75th anniversary commemorations at the WWII Memorial.

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
Military District of Washington Chaplain
U.S. Navy Color Guard
Staff Sergeant Kevin Maloney, U.S. Army Band Bugler
WWII Memorial Volunteers

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

When: Thursday, January 31, 2019 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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