

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL
LAUNCHES THIRD YEAR OF FOUR-YEAR WWII 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION**

2019 will feature 25 ceremonies and commemorative events, 17 of which are part of the 75th Anniversary observation, beginning with three 75th Anniversary commemorations in the month of January.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) begins its busiest year yet in 2019, as the third year of Friends’ four-year WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration kicks off with three 75th anniversaries in the month of January. During this Commemoration, Friends is marking the 75th anniversary of every battle and campaign during World War II. Over the course of 2019, Friends will plan, fund, and host 25 ceremonies and commemorative events at the WWII Memorial, at least 17 of which are part of the 75th Anniversary observation.

Among the battles whose 75th anniversaries Friends will be marking over the course of 2019 are the 75th anniversary of the Allied landings at Normandy, France on D-Day on June 6, 2019 and the 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge on December 16, 2019. In order to honor, remember, and celebrate the Greatest Generation, these ceremonies will include World War II veterans, wreath layings, military support from the Military District of Washington, and representatives from Allied nations.

Friends’ 2019 schedule begins with three 75th Anniversary commemorations in the month of January, each of which will be held at the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC:

- Thursday, January 17th – Battle of Monte Cassino 75th Anniversary Commemoration
- Tuesday, January 22nd – Battle of Anzio 75th Anniversary Commemoration
- Thursday, January 31st – Battle of Kwajalein 75th Anniversary Commemoration

To help elevate the WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration, Friends has also assembled a prestigious and supportive WWII 75th Anniversary Honorary Committee, who have all signed on because they believe in Friends’ mission to honor and thank the Greatest Generation through 75th anniversary commemorations at the WWII Memorial. The Honorary Committee is chaired by Senator Bob Dole, a WWII veteran and former National Chairman of the WWII Memorial Campaign. Other members of the Honorary Committee include: President Jimmy Carter, Tom Hanks, Representative Marcy Kaptur, Robin Roberts, Tom Brokaw, and many more.

Friends is the only organization hosting a four-year 75th anniversary commemoration, marking every battle in which American troops participated during World War II. Since the beginning of the 75th anniversary commemoration on Pearl Harbor Day 2016, Friends has hosted seventeen 75th anniversary ceremonies at the Memorial. The Friends of the National World War II Memorial WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration still has two more years full of ceremonies left, as it will continue through the 75th anniversary of V-J Day on September 2, 2020.

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.

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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