

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 20, 2014

**GEORGE PRESCOTT BUSH TO JOIN WORLD WAR II VETERANS  
TO COMMEMORATE V-J DAY AT THE WWII MEMORIAL**

*Event will also mark 70 years since former President George H.W. Bush was shot down over the Pacific on September 2, 1944 while serving as a torpedo bomber pilot with the U.S. Navy.*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) and the National Park Service (NPS) will pay tribute to the Greatest Generation during a special event at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, September 2, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. commemorating the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Allied Forces Victory in the Pacific and the end of World War II.

George Prescott Bush, the grandson of President George H.W. Bush, will give the keynote address. September 2 marks the 70th anniversary of President Bush's 46th combat mission, when he was shot down over the Pacific during World War II. On that mission as a torpedo bomber pilot, he was shot down by Japanese anti-aircraft fire and was rescued from the water by a U.S. submarine. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in action. The youngest pilot in the Navy when he received his wings, the future President Bush flew a total of 58 combat missions during World War II.

Mr. Bush will pay tribute to his grandfather's service and thank all those who served during World War II. The younger Bush served an eight-month tour of duty in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom under the Special Operations Command for which he was awarded the Joint Service Commendation Medal for his meritorious service.

Award-winning news anchor, reporter, writer, and producer Gordon Peterson will serve as the event's master of ceremonies. A former U.S. Marine Officer, Mr. Peterson often reports on problems and challenges facing the U.S. military and veterans. He is the recipient of the Veteran's Administration Involvement award and has been the guest of honor at the Marine Corps War Memorial Sunset Parade.

Friends Chairman retired Army Lieutenant General Mick Kicklighter will speak on behalf of Friends and Robert Vogel, Superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, will speak on behalf of NPS. The Military District of Washington will provide military support for the event including performances by the U.S. Navy Ceremonial Band.

**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 is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to honoring and preserving the national memory of World War II. The nonprofit organization was established by a group of private citizens involved in the Memorial from its inception to its dedication. The National World War II Memorial honors those who served and pays tribute to the spirit of unity and shared purpose, which defined the character of our country during the war years. To support the Friends mission of preserving the legacy of the Memorial, Friends has initiated a number of commemorative and educational programs. Working in a cooperative partnership with the National Park Service, Friends has the lead responsibility in planning and staging major national commemorative events and sponsors free public performances of military bands at the Memorial. Additionally, Friends sponsors an annual public lecture series featuring prominent historians; provides teachers with curriculum materials; and collects and archives video interviews of World War II veterans and other members of the Greatest Generation.

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