

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**WORLD WAR II VETERANS AND PACIFIC THEATER ALLIES
TO COMMEMORATE 70TH ANNIVERSARY OF V-J DAY AT THE WWII MEMORIAL**

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 Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 10:30 a.m. commemorating the 70th anniversary of the Allied Forces Victory in the Pacific and the effective end of World War II.

Nearly 70 years ago the Empire of Japan formally surrendered to the Allied Powers during a ceremony aboard the USS *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay bringing the world closer to the end of the deadliest conflict in human history.

During a radio address to the American people, U.S. President Harry S. Truman declared September 2nd as V-J Day stating, “This is a victory of more than arms alone. This is a victory of liberty over tyranny” and asking Americans to “set aside V-J Day as one of renewed consecration to the principles which have made us the strongest nation on earth and which, in this war, we have striven so mightily to preserve.”

As part of the special V-J Day 70th Anniversary Commemoration at the WWII Memorial, more than a dozen World War II veterans and representatives of the United States and Pacific Theater Allies will place wreaths at the “Freedom Wall” of the Memorial in memory of the more than 400,000 Americans and 60 million people killed worldwide during the deadliest military conflict in human history.

WWII veteran former Senator Robert “Bob” Dole and other dignitaries will provide remarks.

Renowned military historian Richard B. Frank, author of *Guadalcanal: The Definitive Account of the Landmark Battle, Downfall: The End of the Imperial Japanese Empire*, and *MacArthur* (Great Generals Series), will serve as the event's Master of Ceremonies and Expert Historian.

Friends Chairman Josiah Bunting III will speak on behalf of Friends and Karen Cucurullo, acting 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.

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 ensuring that the legacy, lessons, and sacrifices of World War II are not forgotten. To meet this mission, 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. Additionally, Friends has the lead responsibility in planning and staging 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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