

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 23, 2016

**VETERANS TO GATHER AT NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL ON MEMORIAL DAY
TO REMEMBER 400,000 AMERICANS LOST DURING WORLD WAR II**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) and the National Park Service will remember and honor the more than 400,000 Americans who lost their lives during WWII, and pay tribute to the 16 million who served, during a special Memorial Day Observance at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Monday, May 30, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

As part of the commemoration, a dozen World War II veterans will present wreaths at the Freedom Wall in remembrance of their fallen brothers and sisters.

The ceremony will feature musical performances by Grammy Award-nominated songwriter Bob Regan and country music artist Rockie Lynne. Mr. Regan will be performing his song “The Last Monday in May,” a song about Memorial Day written in collaboration with veterans. Mr. Lynne, a U.S. Army veteran who served as a paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division, will perform several patriotic songs during the ceremony.

Students visiting from Collège Elie Faure in Ste Foy la Grande, Southwestern France, who are part of a remembrance school program meant to honor the American veterans who fought in France during WWII, will read very personal and poignant tributes to American World War II veterans.

WUSA9 weekday morning news anchor Mr. Mike Hydeck will serve as the event’s Master of Ceremonies.

Friends’ chairman Josiah Bunting III and Karen Cucurullo, deputy superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, will offer welcome remarks. The Military District of Washington will provide military support for the event.

The ceremony will begin with the posting of colors by the Military District of Washington’s Armed Forces Color Guard and, following remarks and wreath layings, will conclude with the playing of Taps.

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; 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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