

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 8, 2016

**HUNDREDS TO GATHER AT NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL  
ON VETERANS DAY TO HONOR THE “GREATEST GENERATION”**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) and the National Park Service (NPS) will pay tribute to the more than 16 million men and women who served with the U.S. armed forces during World War II during a special Veterans Day event at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Friday, November 11, 2016 at 9:00 a.m.

During the event, author and veteran Mr. Allan Howerton will offer personal remarks about his own service during WWII. Mr. Howerton served as a rifleman, messenger, and company communications sergeant with the 84th Infantry Division during the Rhineland, Ardennes (Battle of the Bulge), and Central Europe campaigns.

As part of the ceremony, Mr. Howerton and nearly twenty other World War II veterans will place wreaths at the Freedom Wall in remembrance of the more than 400,000 Americans who lost their lives during WWII.

WUSA9 Morning Anchor Mike Hydeck will serve as the event’s Master of Ceremonies.

Friends’ chairman Josiah Bunting III and Gay Vietzke, superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, will each offer welcome remarks.

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 presentations, will conclude with the playing of Taps.

**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 (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; 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 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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