

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WWII BATTLE OF MIDWAY TO BE COMMEMORATED AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

A wreath will be laid at the Pacific Arch of the Memorial to honor more than 300 Americans killed during this battle.

Washington, DC – On Saturday, June 3, 2017 at 11:30 am, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial will host a brief ceremony and wreath presentation at the World War II Memorial’s Pacific Arch to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Midway.

Just six months after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States defeated an attacking fleet of the Imperial Japanese Navy near Midway Atoll in one of the most decisive naval battles of World War II. The Japanese had planned to capture Midway to use as an advance base, as well as to entrap and destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet. Thanks in part to major advances in code breaking, the U.S. Pacific Fleet surprised the Japanese forces, sinking four Japanese carriers and inflicting permanent damage on the Japanese Navy. Often called “the turning point in the Pacific,” the Battle of Midway victory allowed the United States and its allies to move into an offensive position in the Pacific campaign.

During the ceremony, more than a dozen World War II veterans – including six survivors of the battle – will present wreaths at the Pacific Arch of the Memorial in remembrance of the more than 300 Americans killed during the Battle of Midway.

Who: Josiah Bunting III, Chairman, Friends of the National World War II Memorial
World War II Veterans
U.S. Navy Ceremonial Band Bugler

Where: National World War II Memorial
17th Street between Constitution and Independence Avenues
Washington, DC

When: Saturday, June 3, 2017 at 11:30 am

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; 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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