

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 30, 2017

**WORLD WAR II AND D-DAY VETERANS
TO COMMEMORATE 73RD ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AT THE WWII MEMORIAL**

Event will mark 73 years since the June 6, 1944 invasion of Normandy, France and will honor the more than 9,000 Allied soldiers killed or wounded on that day.

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The **Friends of the National World War II Memorial** (Friends) will commemorate the 73 years since 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily-fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France during a special commemoration and wreath presentation at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC on Tuesday, June 6, 2017 at 11:00 AM.

As part of the ceremony, several WWII and D-Day veterans will place wreaths at the Atlantic Arch of the World War II Memorial in memory of the 9,000 Allied soldiers killed or wounded during the invasion.

Lieutenant Gary H. Cheek, Director of the Army Staff, will speak and present a wreath during the event. Friends chairman **Josiah Bunting III** will also provide remarks and the **Military District of Washington** will provide military support for the event.

This year's D-Day ceremony is being held in conjunction with a concert by the **D-Day Memorial Wind Band** presented by **Music Celebrations International**. The concert, which will begin at 10:45 a.m. and continue at the conclusion of the ceremony at approximately 11:30 a.m., will be conducted by the legendary WWII D-Day veteran Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel and Colonel Dennis M. Layendecker. The D-Day Memorial Wind Band also will perform throughout the ceremony.

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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For media inquiries:

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