

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**WORLD WAR II VETERANS AND FAMILIES  
TO GATHER AT WWII MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE V-J DAY**  
*WWII Veteran and Pro Football Hall of Fame Coach Marv Levy to deliver keynote address.*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The **Friends of the National World War II Memorial** and the **National Park Service** will co-host a very special V-J Day Observance at the WWII Memorial on Saturday, September 2nd at 11:00 a.m. to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the Allied Forces Victory in the Pacific and the end of World War II. The ceremony will also celebrate the spirit of unity of the American people during this pivotal moment in our nation’s history and give recognition to all World War II veterans, especially those who fought in the Pacific Theater during the war, as well as all those who served on the home front.

WWII veteran and Pro Football Hall of Fame **Coach Marv Levy** will serve as ceremony’s keynote speaker and will share his poem, “I’ll Remember Those Days” which he dedicated to his fellow veterans. Coach Levy served in the U.S. Army Air Forces during the war.

Friends’ chairman **Josiah Bunting III** and **Brian D. Joyner**, Chief of Staff, National Mall and Memorial Parks, will offer welcome remarks. The **Military District of Washington** will provide military support for the event. The **U.S. Marine Corps Marine Brass Quintet** band will play throughout the commemoration.

As part of the ceremony, Coach Levy and a dozen other **World War II veterans** will be joined by Pro Football Hall of Fame defensive end **Bruce Smith** and other dignitaries in placing wreaths at the Freedom Wall in remembrance of the more than 400,000 Americans who lost their lives during WWII.

**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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For media inquiries:

**Friends of the National World War II Memorial**  
Brianna Jordan, Public Information/ Education Officer  
202.543.0878 [/bjordan@wwiimemorialfriends.org](mailto:bjordan@wwiimemorialfriends.org)