

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 31, 2017

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

Secretary of the Interior and WWII veteran Tuskegee Airman to give remarks during ceremony.

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 Saturday, November 11, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

During the event, United States Department of the Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke and WWII veteran Colonel Charles McGee will provide the keynote addresses.

Secretary Zinke was sworn in as the 52nd Secretary of the Interior on March 1, 2017. An Iraq veteran, he is the first U.S. Navy SEAL to serve as a cabinet secretary.

Colonel McGee served as one of the Tuskegee Airmen and was a career officer in the United States Air Force for 30 years. He holds a U.S. Air Force record of 409 fighter combat missions flown in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

As part of the ceremony, Secretary Zinke, Colonel McGee, 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.

ABC7/WJLA-TV news anchor, Jonathan Elias, will serve as the event’s Master of Ceremonies.

Friends’ chairman Josiah Bunting III and Cassius Cash, acting 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):

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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