

**MEDIA ADVISORY**  
**UNITED STATES ARMY BAND TO KICK OFF 2013 SUMMER**  
**CONCERT SERIES AT NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL**

*April 18 Concert to Begin at 6 p.m.; Event is Free and Open to the Public*

**WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 17, 2013)** – The United States Army Band “Pershing’s Own” will kick off the 2013 Summer Concert Series, sponsored by the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, Inc., this week at the National World War II Memorial.

On Thursday, April 18, 2013, the U.S. Army Band will be the first of 12 performances to be held at the national memorial over the next five months. The concert begins at 6 p.m. at 17th Street between Constitution and Independence Avenues, NW in the nation’s capital. It is free and open to the public.

The U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own” has maintained a tradition of excellence as one of the premier musical organizations of the U.S. Army. Founded in 1922 by Army Chief of Staff General John J. “Black Jack” Pershing, the band was created to emulate European military bands he heard during World War I. The U.S. Army Band continues to play an important role in events of national and international significance, staging performances from the battlefields of World War II to the nation’s capital. The band performs in several July Fourth festivities in Washington, D.C.

The U.S. Army Band has performed in Canada, Japan and Australia as well as in several prominent U.S. concert halls, such as Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, and the Guggenheim Band Shell at Lincoln Center in New York City, the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, and the Hatch Shell in Boston.

Bands scheduled to perform during the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, Inc’s 2013 Summer Concert Series include:

- U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own” – Thursday, April 18, 2013 at 6 p.m.
- U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own” – Thursday, April 25, 2013 at 6 p.m.
- U.S. Army Band “Pershing’s Own” – Thursday, May 9, 2013 at 6 p.m.
- U.S. Navy Commodores Jazz Band – Thursday, June 20, 2013 at 6 p.m.
- U.S. Army 257<sup>th</sup> Reserve Band – Monday, July 1, 2013 at 6 p.m.
- U.S. Public Health Services Band – Saturday, July 27, 2013 at 6 p.m.
- U.S. Navy Cruisers Rock Ensemble – Saturday, August 31, 2013 at 6 p.m.
- U.S. Army Blues Band “Pershing’s Own” – Thursday, September 11, 2013 at 6 p.m.

The complete list will be updated in the coming weeks and will be made available on the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, Inc. Web site at [www.wwiimemorialfriends.org](http://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org).

**About The Friends of the National World War II Memorial, Inc.:** Founded in 2007, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to ensuring that the legacy, lessons, and sacrifices of World War II are not forgotten and enhancing the educational experience for visitors to the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. The nonprofit organization was established by former American Battle Monument Commission members, who were responsible for implementing a Congressional mandate to recommend a site and a design and to fund and build the National World War II Memorial. They were concerned with making the Memorial all that it was an intended to be by its planners, an open welcoming gathering place on the National Mall, a place of reverent remembrance, a place to honor and celebrate the spirit of America during WWII. With growing private support, the cooperation of the National Park Service, the Military District of Washington, and others, these hopes are being realized.