

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL ANNOUNCES HOLLY ROTONDI AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. (April 1, 2013) – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial, Inc. Board of Directors today announced Holly Rotondi has been selected as the nonprofit organization’s new Executive Director, said LTG Mick Kicklighter, USA (Ret.), Chairman, Friends of the National World War II Memorial, Inc.

“Holly has long possessed an academic interest in the National Mall, National Memorials, and U.S. history,” LTG Kicklighter said. “Additionally, she has many years of valuable nonprofit executive and management experience as office manager, program director, and vice president of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund.”

“Holly has a deep and longstanding commitment to our nation’s veterans. She is the ideal person to lead the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, Inc. forward as its opportunities are on the rise,” he added.

In addition to her overall executive responsibilities, Rotondi will be responsible for program planning and staging the commemorative and celebratory events, including the official National Days of Observance that takes place at the National Memorial with its public-sector partner, the National Park Service. She will also oversee the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, Inc.’s special events, such as the summer evening band concerts and a growing educational outreach programs, dedicated to preserving the nation’s memory of World War II, the defining event of the 20th century. Rotondi also will be responsible for the organization’s fundraising and public affairs duties.

With the number of World War II veterans diminishing daily, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, Inc. is especially concerned with honoring all who served with the U.S. military in World War II.

“The Friends of the National World War II Memorial, Inc. must be vigilant in capturing these

veterans' stories and needs to remain committed to sustaining and expanding a robust series of programs dedicated to ensuring that the legacy, lessons, and sacrifices of World War II are not forgotten," Rotondi said. One of her priorities is "to enhance the educational experience for those individuals" who visit the National Memorial each year. The World War II National Memorial is the most-visited memorial in Washington, D.C.

One of the organization's programs that Rotondi strongly endorses is "Capturing the Voices of World War II: A Student Interview Project." This new, robust initiative marks the first time where veterans interviewed at "their" own Memorial have "their" images and stories collected and archived in a manner that allows them to be digitally preserved for posterity and use by family members, educators, historians, and subsequent generations.

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 started by former American Battle Monument Commission members, who were responsible for overseeing and managing 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, and 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.