

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
February 13, 2018

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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF KASSERINE PASS TO BE COMMEMORATED AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

*A wreath will be laid at the Atlantic Arch of the Memorial in remembrance of the
10,000 Allies killed, wounded, or missing during the battle.*

Washington, D.C. – On Monday, February 19th at 11:30 a.m., the Friends of the National World War II Memorial will host a brief ceremony and wreath presentation at the World War II Memorial’s Atlantic Arch to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Kasserine Pass, the first major battlefield engagement between American troops and the German army in Africa during WWII.

The Battle of Kasserine Pass in February 1943 greatly tested a young and inexperienced U.S. Army. The German forces launched an offensive against the American, British, and free French Allies to forestall their advance into Tunisia. American troops suffered many casualties and were quickly pushed back about 50 miles from their positions. After the early defeat, American forces – with British reinforcements – rallied and held the exits through mountain passes in western Tunisia, ultimately defeating the Axis offensive and pushing them out of Tunisia three months later. As a result of the defeat at the Battle of Kasserine Pass, the U.S. Army instituted sweeping organizational and tactical changes that were necessary to help eventually win the war.

During the February 19th ceremony at the World War II Memorial, WWII veterans and representatives of the Allied Nations that took part in the campaign will present wreaths at the Atlantic Arch of the Memorial in honor of the 30,000 Allies who served and in remembrance of the 10,000 Allies killed, wounded, and missing during the Battle of Kasserine Pass.

Who: Josiah Bunting III, Chairman, Friends of the National World War II Memorial
Commander Richard Underwood, British Embassy
World War II Veterans

Where: National World War II Memorial
17th Street between Constitution and Independence Avenues
Washington, DC

When: Monday, February 19, 2018 at 11:30 AM

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 and to creating the next “Greatest Generation” of tomorrow. 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 is currently sponsoring a national four-year World War II 75th anniversary commemoration. 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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