

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
June 14, 2018

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WWII VETERANS, ALLIED REPRESENTATIVES, AND WASHINGTON NATIONALS PITCHER SEAN DOOLITTLE TO COMMEMORATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE FOR THE SKIES (AIR WAR) AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

*Wreaths will be laid at the Memorial in memory of the hundreds of thousands of Allied soldiers killed
in the Battle for the Skies throughout the course of World War II.*

Washington, D.C. – On Wednesday, June 20th 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 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of World War II’s air war or “Battle for the Skies” and to pay tribute to the men and women who served in the United States’ and Allies’ air forces during WWII.

Friends Chairman Josiah Bunting III, a noted author and historian, will offer brief remarks and will be joined by many honored guests, including: veterans of the U.S. Eight Air Force, known as the “Mighty Eighth,” Washington Nationals pitcher Sean Doolittle who is the 7th cousin of General Jimmy Doolittle who led the daring Doolittle Raid over Tokyo in April 1942, and representatives from the Allied Nations of Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, France, and New Zealand. WJLA-TV anchor Jonathan Elias will serve as the Master of Ceremonies.

During the June 20th ceremony at the World War II Memorial, WWII veterans, representatives of our Allied Nations, and Sean Doolittle will present wreaths at the Atlantic and Pacific Arches of the Memorial in honor of all who served and in remembrance of the more than 88,000 American airmen killed and the hundreds of thousands of Allied airmen killed in the Battle for the Skies throughout the course of World War II.

The Friends of the National World War II Memorial's WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration is generously sponsored by AT&T. Generous support has also been provided by the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation and Worthington Industries.

Who: World War II Veterans
Friends Chairman Josiah Bunting III
Sean Doolittle, Washington Nationals
Jonathan Elias, Anchor/Reporter, WJLA-TV
Air Commodore Terry van Haren, Air Attaché, Embassy of Australia
Air Commodore James Linter, Air Attaché, British Embassy
Mr. Martin Loken, Minister (Political), Canadian Embassy
Lieutenant Colonel Dave Devenney, Canadian Armed Forces, Canadian Embassy
Colonel Olivier Kaladjian, Defense Mission, Embassy of France
Wing Commander Wayne Morris, Air Attaché, Embassy of New Zealand
Minister Christine Hseuh, Deputy Representative, Taipei Economic & Cultural Representative Office in the U.S. (TECRO)
David L. Mansberger, Ch, Lt Col, USAF, Senior Chaplain Arlington National Cemetery

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

When: Wednesday, June 20, 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, staging, and funding 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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