

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
July 3, 2018

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75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INVASION OF SICILY TO BE COMMEMORATED AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Wreaths will be laid at the Atlantic Arch of the Memorial in remembrance of the more than 10,000 Americans and the nearly 13,000 British and Canadians killed, wounded, or captured during the Invasion of Sicily.

Washington, D.C. – On Monday, July 9th 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 Invasion of Sicily (Operation Husky), a massive Allied amphibious and air operation which initiated the Italian Campaign and struck the first blow against fascist Italy.

The July 9 – August 17, 1943 Invasion of Sicily by American, British, and Canadian forces, with support from the Free French, marked the start of the Italian Campaign; opened up the Mediterranean Sea lanes for Allied merchant ships for the first time since 1941; toppled Italian leader, Benito Mussolini, from power in Italy; and led the way for the Allied invasion of Italy and the first defeat of one of the three Axis Powers.

During the July 9th ceremony at the World War II Memorial, WWII veterans and representatives of Allied nations will present wreaths at the Atlantic Arch of the Memorial in honor of all who served and in remembrance of the nearly 10,000 Americans killed, wounded, or captured and the nearly 13,000 British and Canadians killed, wounded, or captured during the Invasion of Sicily.

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
Colonel Patrick Robichaud, Embassy of Canada
Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Adams, Embassy of Canada
Commander Richard McHugh, Royal Navy, Assistant Naval Attaché, British Embassy
Armed Forces Color Guard
Army Chaplain (LTC) Todd Wolfe
Master of Ceremonies: Mike Lonetto, Chairman, 82nd Airborne Division Association, DC Chapter

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

When: Monday, July 9, 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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