

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**VETERANS TO GATHER AT NATIONAL WWII MEMORIAL ON MEMORIAL DAY
TO REMEMBER 400,000 AMERICANS LOST DURING WORLD WAR II**

Representative Marcy Kaptur to give keynote address on 15th anniversary of Memorial's dedication

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) and the National Park Service (NPS) will pay tribute to the more than 400,000 Americans who lost their lives during WWII in a special Memorial Day Observance at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Monday, May 27, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

The ceremony will feature a keynote address by Representative Marcy Kaptur of Ohio. Representative Kaptur was instrumental in the creation of the World War II Memorial and will be speaking on the 15th anniversary of its dedication. Representative Kaptur first introduced legislation to authorize establishing a WWII Memorial on federal land in D.C. in 1987. She introduced similar legislation in 1989, 1991, and 1993, when finally it was passed and signed into law by then President Bill Clinton. Representative Kaptur led the campaign to create a World War II Memorial in D.C. and has always been a staunch advocate for the WWII Memorial as a place to honor, remember, and thank the Greatest Generation.

As part of the commemoration, a dozen World War II veterans will lay wreaths at the Freedom Wall in remembrance of their fallen brothers and sisters.

ABC7/WJLA-TV news anchor, Jonathan Elias, will serve as the event's Master of Ceremonies.

Friends' chairman Josiah Bunting III and Jeffery Reinbold, acting superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, will offer welcome remarks. The Military District of Washington will provide military support for the event.

The ceremony is open to the general public and we encourage registration [through our website](#).

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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