

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
May 1, 2019

**WORLD WAR II VETERANS AND OTHERS TO COMMEMORATE  
74<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF V-E DAY AT THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) and the National Park Service (NPS) will pay tribute to the Greatest Generation at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m., marking the 74<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Allied Forces Victory in the Atlantic and the end of World War II in Europe.

As part of the commemoration, more than a dozen World War II veterans, representatives from embassies of Allied nations, and students from schools in Ohio and Maryland will place wreaths at the WWII Memorial's Freedom Wall in remembrance of the more than 400,000 Americans and 60 million people killed worldwide during the deadliest military conflict in human history.

Representatives from the Embassies of Ukraine, Canada, and New Zealand will participate in the ceremony. Groups from Kenston Middle School in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and Yeshiva of Greater Washington in Silver Spring, Maryland, will attend the ceremony and students from each of the schools will participate in the commemorative activities.

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

Friends' chairman Josiah Bunting III and Jeff Reinboldt, 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](http://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.

###

For media inquiries:

**Friends of the National World War II Memorial**

Thalia Ertman, Public Education Officer

202.543.0878 / [tertman@wwiimemorialfriends.org](mailto:tertman@wwiimemorialfriends.org)