

June 12, 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF SAIPAN, “D-DAY PACIFIC”

SUMMARY:

On Saturday, June 15th at 11:30 a.m., the Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will host a Battle of Saipan 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. The ceremony and wreath presentation at the Memorial’s Pacific Arch will commemorate 75 years since the battle also referred to as “D-Day Pacific” due to its important strategic impact on the Pacific War.

WHO:

- World War II veteran Harry Miller
- Douglas Domenech, Assistant Secretary Insular and International Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior
- Jan Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Molly Pomroy, whose late father, Sgt. Thomas J. Quirk, served in the Battle of Saipan
- Javier Abril, whose maternal grandfather, James W. Gabisch, served in the Battle of Saipan
- Chaplain CDR Garry R. Thornton, Jr., USN
- Master Gunnery Sergeant Matt Harding of the U.S. Marine Band

WHAT:

Family members of veterans who served in the Battle of Saipan, a representative of the Mariana Islands from the Department of the Interior, and representatives from the Military District of Washington will lay wreaths at the National World War II Memorial in honor of the 71,000 U.S. Marines and soldiers who landed on the island and to remember the nearly 3,500 killed and more than 10,000 wounded.

WHERE:

National World War II Memorial, 1750 Independence Ave SW, Washington, D.C. 20024

WHEN:

Saturday, June 15, 11:30 a.m.

*Media can RSVP to Thalia Ertman at tertman@wwiimemorialfriends.org

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.

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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