

August 28, 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LIBERATION OF PARIS

SUMMARY:

On Thursday, August 29th at 6:00 p.m., the Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will host a Liberation of Paris 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. The ceremony and wreath presentation at the Rainbow Pool will remember, honor, recognize, and thank those who liberated Paris.

The Liberation of Paris 75th Anniversary Commemoration is part of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial's four-year WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration, which kicked off on Pearl Harbor Day 2016 and will go until VJ-Day 2020. Friends is the only organization hosting a full four-year 75th Anniversary Commemoration, marking every major battle in which American troops participated during World War II.

WHO:

- World War II veterans
- The Honorable David Norquist, Deputy Secretary of Defense
- Lieutenant General Leslie Smith, Inspector General of the U.S. Army
- Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of General Dwight D. Eisenhower
- General Bruno Cuche, former Chief of French Army
- Major General Andrew Schafer, Commanding General, U.S. 28th Infantry Division
- Monsignor Antoine de Romanet, Bishop to the French Armies
- Lieutenant General Claude "Mick" Kicklighter, USA (Ret), board member, Friends of the National WWII Memorial
- The Honorable Carole Brookins, chairwoman, The First Alliance Foundation
- Brigadier General Jean-Pierre Montégu, Défense Attaché of the French Embassy
- Lieutenant General (Ret.) Olivier Tramond, co-chairman, The First Alliance Foundation
- Colonel Gregory Colombani, Brigade Commander, French 501st Combat Tank Regiment (2nd Armored Division)
- Colonel Ike Sallee, Brigade Commander, U.S. 4th Infantry Division
- Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Tammie Crews, USA
- U.S. Army Band (Pershing's Own)

WHAT:

World War II veterans who liberated Paris and served throughout France, a delegation from France, and representatives from the three divisions involved in the Liberation of Paris will place wreaths at the World War II Memorial to honor those who liberated the iconic French city from Nazi control. A 40-piece contingent of the U.S. Army Band (Pershing's Own) will provide musical tributes.

WHERE:

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

WHEN:

Thursday, August 29, 6:00 p.m.

*Media can RSVP to Thalia Ertman tertman@wwiimemorialfriends.org or Scott Warner swarner@wwiimemorialfriends.org

This ceremony is being generously sponsored by The First Alliance Foundation, whose mission is to honor and enhance the French-American strategic and military alliance.

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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