

September 30, 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF AACHEN

SUMMARY:

On Wednesday, October 2nd at 11:30 a.m., the Friends of the National World War II Memorial will hold a brief ceremony and wreath presentation at the National World War II Memorial to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Aachen, one of the last, largest urban battles fought by the U.S. Army during the war.

On October 2, 1944, the American First Army launched an assault on the historic town of Aachen, which had been incorporated into Germany's western fortifications. The town was captured in just less than three weeks of rough urban combat, making Aachen the first German town to be taken by the Allies. With the town captured, the Allied forces had finally found the first hole in the Siegfried Line, allowing the Allies to begin their advance across German soil itself.

The Battle of Aachen 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
- Retired Army Major General John Herrling, former Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission
- Jane Droppa, Vice Chair of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial and daughter of the late Jack Irwin who served in Army Intelligence under General MacArthur in the Pacific Theater during World War II
- Mike Lonetto, Chairman, Washington DC Chapter, 82nd Airborne Division Association, Inc.
- Chaplain (LTC) Tammie E. Crews, Deputy Command Chaplain, JFHQ-NCR-MDW
- Military District of Washington

WHAT:

World War II veterans and others will present a wreath at the Atlantic Arch of the Memorial in honor of the 100,000 American soldiers who served and in remembrance of the more than 5,000 killed or wounded during the Battle of Aachen. The Military District of Washington will provide military support.

WHERE:

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

WHEN:

Wednesday, October 2, 11:30 a.m.

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