

September 17, 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY

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

SUMMARY:

On Thursday, September 19th 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 Hürtgen Forest, one of the first and longest battles to take place on German soil during WWII.

The Battle of Hürtgen Forest was a series of engagements fought through mid-December for control of the forest on Germany's border with Belgium. The campaign failed to break the German defensive lines, with heavy casualties lost for only marginal gains.

The Battle of Hürtgen Forest 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; including WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veteran Harry Miller
- Jan Scruggs, Founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Jane Droppa, Vice Chairman of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial and daughter of the late Jack Irwin who served in Army Intelligence under General McArthur in the Pacific Theater during World War II
- Retired Army Major General John Herrling, former Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission
- U.S. Army Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Todd Wolf, USA
- Military District of Washington

WHAT:

World War II veterans and others will lay wreaths at the National World War II Memorial's Atlantic Arch in honor and remembrance of the more than 33,000 Americans killed or wounded during the Battle of Hürtgen Forest. The Military District of Washington will provide military support.

WHERE:

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

WHEN:

Thursday, September 19, 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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