

September 12, 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY

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

SUMMARY:

On Sunday, September 15th 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 Peleliu. Marines of the 1st Marine Division and soldiers of the U.S. Army's 81st Infantry Division fought the two-month long battle in order to capture the Palauan island of Peleliu. While succeeding in moving American lines closer to the Philippines, this battle was one of the bitterest of the war, causing some of the highest casualty rates logged by Marine units.

The Battle of Peleliu was a hard-fought victory that taught the soldiers and Marines who captured Peleliu many harsh lessons about how to fight against Japanese bastions. They would take these lessons with them into their next battles.

The Battle of Peleliu 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 Battle of Peleliu veteran Ira Rigger, who served with the U.S. Navy Seabees
- Family of the late Marine Corps Master Technical Sergeant Robert Thomas Hagan, who served in the Battle of Peleliu
- U.S. Army Chaplain (Lieutenant Colonel) Todd Wolf
- U.S. Marine Band Trumpeter
- Military District of Washington

WHAT:

World War II veterans and others will lay wreaths at the National World War II Memorial's Pacific Arch in honor and remembrance of the nearly 48,000 Americans who served and the nearly 11,000 killed and wounded during the Battle of Peleliu. The Military District of Washington will provide military support.

WHERE:

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

WHEN:

Sunday, September 15, 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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