

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 8, 2019

**AUTHOR AND HISTORIAN PROFESSOR WILLIAM HITCHCOCK TO DELIVER LECTURE ON
GENERAL EISENHOWER AND WORLD WAR II AT NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY**

*Hitchcock to explore the role of General Dwight Eisenhower in forging the Western Alliance during
World War II and the early Cold War in WWII Memorial Legacy Lecture on November 13.*

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will host the 7th Annual “Haydn Williams” World War II Memorial Legacy Lecture on November 13, 2019 at 9:00 AM at the National Defense University’s (NDU) Lincoln Hall Auditorium at 260 5th Avenue, SW at Fort McNair in Washington, DC.

This year’s Legacy Lecturer is Professor William Hitchcock, William C. Corcoran Professor of History at the University of Virginia.

Professor Hitchcock’s lecture, titled “*Eisenhower, World War II, and the Making of the Western Alliance*,” will explore the role of General Dwight Eisenhower in forging the western alliance during World War II and the early Cold War. Professor Hitchcock will show that Eisenhower’s leadership as Supreme Allied Commander during the war, his postwar command of NATO, and his commitment to allied diplomacy as President of the United States pulled the fractious states of the west together and formed the world’s strongest and most enduring global alliance.

Professor Hitchcock is a historian who focuses on the international, diplomatic, and military history of the 20th century, in particular the era of the World Wars and the Cold War. He has written several historical monographs including *France Restored: Cold War Diplomacy and the Quest for Leadership in Europe*; *The Struggle for Europe: The Turbulent History of a Divided Continent, 1945-present*; *The Bitter Road to Freedom: A New History of the Liberation of Europe*, which was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize; and *The Age of Eisenhower: America and the World in the 1950s*, his most recent book which was a *New York Times* bestseller. He has taught at Yale University, Wellesley College, and now teaches at UVA.

The November 13 Legacy Lecture is free and open to the public; however, attendees are required to register beforehand to help facilitate check-in upon arrival at the [security checkpoint at NDU](#). Interested individuals [may register for the event](#) on the Friends website.

The Haydn Williams World War II Memorial Legacy Lecture, a signature program of Friends, is an annual public lecture series that features preeminent historians and others speaking on the lasting significance and impact of World War II on America and the world.

Previous Legacy Lecturers have included Pulitzer Prize-winning author Rick Atkinson; British author, historian, and broadcaster Sir Max Hastings; U.S. Naval Academy professor and author Dr. Craig Symonds; Stanford University professor and author Dr. David Kennedy; renowned journalist and author Tom Brokaw; and Hoover Institution Fellow Victor Davis Hanson.

The annual Haydn Williams World War II Memorial Legacy Lecture is made possible through the generous endowment of the late [Ambassador F. Haydn Williams](#), a WWII veteran, former chairman of the American Battle Monuments Commission’s WWII Memorial Committee, and founder and former chairman emeritus of Friends of the National World War II Memorial. This year’s lecture has also received generous support from 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. 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 each summer sponsors a dozen free public performances of military bands at the Memorial. 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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