

January 6, 2020

MEDIA ADVISORY

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

SUMMARY:

On Thursday, January 9 at 11:30 a.m., the Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will hold a brief ceremony and wreath presentation at the National World War II Memorial to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Luzon, a significant land battle in the Pacific Theater of Operations during WWII that dealt a severe blow to the Japanese and placed the Allies one step closer to total victory.

The Battle of Luzon 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 **Colonel Frederick Clinton**, who served with the 63rd Infantry Division in France and Germany, Filipino American **Celestino Almeda**, who served in the Philippine Army and is 103 years old, and Filipino American **Ray Cabacar**, who served with the U.S. Navy.
- Allied Representatives from the Philippines, Australia, and Mexico
- Jan Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Military District of Washington

WHAT:

World War II veterans and representatives of Allied Nations will present wreaths at the Pacific Arch of the National World War II Memorial in honor of the nearly 300,000 Allies who served and in remembrance of the more than 47,000 killed or wounded during the Battle of Luzon.

WHERE:

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

WHEN:

Thursday, January 9, 11:30 a.m.

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