

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL LAUNCHES FINAL YEAR OF FOUR-YEAR WWII 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION *2020 will feature at least 19 ceremonies and commemorative events, of which 12 or more are part of the 75th Anniversary observation, including the 75th Anniversary of V-E Day in May and V-J Day in September.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Leading with three commemorative events in January, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) begins the final year of its four-year WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration in 2020. Over the past three years, Friends has marked the 75th anniversary of every major battle and campaign during World War II. Over the course of 2020, Friends will plan, fund, and host at least 19 ceremonies and commemorative events at the WWII Memorial, of which 12 or more are part of the 75th anniversary observation.

Among the events Friends will be marking over the course of 2020 are the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima on February 19, the 75th anniversary of the Liberation of the Concentration Camps on April 29, the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day on May 8, and the 75th anniversary of V-J Day on September 2. In order to honor, remember, and celebrate the Greatest Generation, these ceremonies will include World War II veterans, wreath laying presentations, military support from the Military District of Washington, and representatives from Allied nations.

“As we enter the final year of the four-year World War II 75th anniversary commemoration, we remember, honor, recognize, and continue to thank the World War II generation for their sacrifice, valor, dedication, and determination,” said Friends’ Chairman Josiah Bunting III. “2020 will be the last chance to honor many of the Greatest Generation and we hope to commemorate it with our events and educational programs at the memorial.”

To help elevate the WWII 75th anniversary commemoration, Friends assembled a prestigious and supportive WWII 75th Anniversary Honorary Committee, who all signed on because they believe in Friends’ mission to honor and thank the Greatest Generation through 75th anniversary commemorations at the WWII Memorial. The Honorary Committee is chaired by Sen. Bob Dole, a WWII veteran and former National Chairman of the WWII Memorial Campaign. Other members of the Honorary Committee include: President Jimmy Carter, actor Tom Hanks, Rep. Marcy Kaptur, television anchor Robin Roberts, broadcast journalist Tom Brokaw, and many more.

Friends is the only organization hosting a four-year 75th anniversary commemoration, marking every major battle in which American troops participated during World War II. Since the beginning of the 75th anniversary commemoration on Pearl Harbor Day 2016, Friends has hosted thirty-nine 75th anniversary ceremonies at the Memorial. The Friends of the National World War II Memorial WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration now enters its fourth and final year, with twelve more 75th anniversary ceremonies planned in 2020, ending with through the 75th anniversary of V-J Day on September 2, 2020.

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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