

January 31, 2020

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### NFL TO SALUTE FOUR 100-YEAR-OLD VETERANS AT SUPER BOWL LIV DURING ON-FIELD PREGAME FESTIVITIES AND COMMEMORATE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF WWII

#### SUMMARY:

The NFL will salute four 100-year-old World War II veterans at Super Bowl LIV on Sunday, February 2 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, Fla. With the culmination of the NFL's 100<sup>th</sup> season at Super Bowl LIV, the league will recognize these veterans for their military service and celebrate its 100 seasons alongside their 100 years of life.

This year also marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II. The four veterans participating in the coin toss are members of the "Greatest Generation" and were among the 16 million Americans whose service, valor, dedication, and determination 75 years ago preserved our freedom and saved our nation and the world.

The recognition marks the culmination of six months of efforts by the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, along with the support of WWII veteran and Pro Football Hall of Fame Coach Marv Levy, to encourage the NFL and its teams to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of World War II and to honor our "Greatest Generation."

#### WHO:

- **Staff Sergeant Odón S. Cardenas**, who served with the U.S. Army in the European Theater of Operations in the Ardennes and Central Europe until he was captured and held as a POW in Germany and then was liberated by fellow U.S. service members.
- **First Lieutenant Samuel Lombardo**, who served with the U.S. Army in the European Theater of Operations during the Battle of the Bulge, Remagen Bridgehead, Ruhr Pocket, and Central Europe Campaigns. He also served during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.
- **Colonel Charles McGee**, who served with the U.S. Army Air Forces as one of the famed Tuskegee Airmen. As a pilot, he escorted B-24 and B-17 bombers over Germany, Austria, and the Balkans, flying a total of 137 combat missions during WWII. He also served with the U.S. Air Force during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.
- **Corporal Sidney Walton**, served with the U.S. Army in the China Burma India Theater during World War II.

#### WHAT:

The four 100-year-old World War II veterans will participate in the official on-field Coin Toss ceremony at Super Bowl LIV before the game commences between the Kansas City Chiefs and the San Francisco 49ers. Colonel Charles McGee will flip the coin, surrounded by the other three veterans – Staff Sergeant Odón S. Cardenas, First Lieutenant Samuel Lombardo, and Corporal Sidney Walton.

#### WHERE:

Hard Rock Stadium, 347 Don Shula Dr, Miami Gardens, FL 33056

#### WHEN:

Sunday, February 2, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

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#### About Friends of the National World War II Memorial ([www.wwiimemorialfriends.org](http://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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