

February 14, 2020

MEDIA ADVISORY

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL AND GEN. MARK A. MILLEY TO COMMEMORATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF IWO JIMA

SUMMARY:

On Wednesday, February 19 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 Iwo Jima, a U.S. amphibious assault to capture the Japanese-held island of Iwo Jima. The 36-day battle resulted in a hard-fought American victory with many casualties, and the action remains an iconic symbol of American and Marine fighting spirit.

Joining Friends in marking the anniversary of this significant battle will be General Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Gen. Milley's father, Alexander Milley, served with the U.S. Marines in the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The Battle of Iwo Jima 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 V-J 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:

- Gen. Mark A. Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff
- Ira Rigger, World War II and Battle of Iwo Jima veteran
- Josiah Bunting III, chairman of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial
- Jan Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Chaplain (CDR) Garry R Thornton, Jr., USN
- Military District of Washington

WHAT:

World War II veterans, Gen. Mark A. Milley, and other special guests will present wreaths at the Pacific Arch of the Memorial in honor of the 110,000 U.S. Marines, soldiers, Navy corpsmen, Seabees, U.S. Army Air Forces personnel, and others who served and in remembrance of the more than 26,000 killed or wounded during the Battle of Iwo Jima.

WHERE:

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

WHEN:

Wednesday, February 19, 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.