

March 30, 2020

## MEDIA ADVISORY

### FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF OKINAWA

#### SUMMARY:

On Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 a.m., the Friends of the National World War II Memorial will hold a brief, private ceremony and wreath presentation at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa, the largest amphibious operation of the Pacific war.

Media are encouraged to join us online only via our [Facebook page](#), and not attend in person. For more information on the history of the Battle of Okinawa, please see the [event page](#).

The Battle of Okinawa 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration is part of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial's four-year WWII 75<sup>th</sup> 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 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemoration, marking every major battle in which American troops participated during World War II.

#### WHO:

- The Friends of the National World War II Memorial
- Digital audience via our [Facebook](#)
- Recorded video remarks from Battle of Okinawa and WWII veteran retired Army Colonel Jim Riffe will be available on our website and social media channels

#### WHAT:

During the private April 1<sup>st</sup> ceremony at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, a wreath will be presented in honor of all those who served and in remembrance of the more than 49,000 casualties and 12,000 killed during the Battle of Okinawa.

In support of the White House and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines of avoiding gatherings of more than 10 people, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial will not host any public commemorations at the National World War II Memorial until further notice.

All Friends 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorations at the WWII Memorial have been streamed live and posted on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#). For the upcoming 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary commemorative events, Friends staff will continue with the live online commemorations and stream it online on our Facebook Live channel. Friends asks that members of the public please do not plan to attend the ceremonies at the Memorial. The commemorations will be brief and the public can leave comments online.

#### WHERE:

U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial, Arlington, VA 22209

#### WHEN:

Wednesday, April 1, 11:30 a.m.

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*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](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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