

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 18, 2020

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL'S RESPONSE TO THE NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) *COVID-19 will impact the WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration.*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – As the situation around the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) continues to evolve, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) is taking the threat seriously and closely following the guidance of public health officials. The safety of our World War II veterans and community, along with all our supporters, is our number one priority in these uncertain times.

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.

Friends of the National World War II Memorial is the only organization sponsoring a full, four-year anniversary commemoration of the 75th anniversary of World War II. Friends is in the final year of marking every major battle of World War II through commemorative ceremonies at the Memorial and other educational programming. It is important to honor the veterans and preserve the memory of World War II.

All Friends 75th anniversary commemorations at the WWII Memorial have been streamed live and posted on our [website](#) and [Facebook](#). For the upcoming 75th 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.

Friends believes that in these challenging times, it is best to look to the examples of those who won the war and saved the world 75 years ago. Please keep our World War II veterans in mind as you maintain your health and safety over the weeks ahead.

The Friends of the National World War II Memorial is privileged and proud to share the stories and images of our Greatest Generation everyday through our website and social media channels. Friends encourages all WWII veterans and the families of those who served to [share these precious stories and images here](#).

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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For media inquiries:

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