

May 20, 2020

MEDIA ADVISORY

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL TO VIRTUALLY COMMEMORATE MEMORIAL DAY AND REMEMBER 400,000 AMERICANS LOST DURING WWII

SUMMARY:

On Monday, May 25th the Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will host a virtual Memorial Day observance to pay tribute to the more than 400,000 Americans who lost their lives during World War II.

Media and the public are encouraged to join us online via the Friends [Facebook page](#), where the virtual Memorial Day observance will begin at 9:00 a.m. and a private wreath-laying ceremony will follow at 9:30 a.m.

WHO:

- Recorded video remarks from:
 - Josiah Bunting III, chairman of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial
 - Jeff Reinbold, superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks
 - Roberta Nolan, daughter of 1LT James O'Boyle Lyons, who was taken prisoner of war during the Battle of the Bulge on December 21, 1944, and died on May 15, 1945, less than a month following his release as a result of conditions during his imprisonment
 - Chaplain (COL) Tim Bonner
 - Jane Droppa, vice chair of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial
- Recorded video performance of "Last Monday in May," by Operation Song
- Digital audience via our [Facebook](#)

WHAT:

On Monday, May 25th at 9:00 a.m., Friends will release a pre-recorded video of our virtual Memorial Day observance featuring remarks from the National Park Service, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, World War II orphan Roberta Nolan, and a special performance by Operation Song. Photos and images have been provided by the American World War II Orphans Network (AWON) to highlight those who gave the ultimate sacrifice during WWII.

At 9:30 a.m., Friends and the National Park Service will host a brief, private wreath-laying ceremony at the National World War II Memorial to remember and honor all the more than 400,000 Americans who lost their lives during World War II.

Members of the public should not plan to attend the ceremony at the Memorial. The commemorations will be brief and the public can leave comments online.

WHERE:

National World War II Memorial, 1750 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20024

WHEN:

Monday, May 25, 9:00 a.m.

*Media contacts: Thalia Ertman at tertman@wwiimemorialfriends.org or Scott Warner at swarner@wwiimemorialfriends.org

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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