

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 27, 2020

**FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF V-J DAY WITH WREATH PRESENTATION, VIRTUAL COMMEMORATION**

Ceremony Concludes Friends' Four-Year 75th Anniversary Commemoration of World War II

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will pay tribute to the Greatest Generation at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Wednesday, September 2 at 10:30 a.m. EDT, marking the 75th anniversary of the Allied forces victory over Japan and the end of World War II the Pacific.

“Friends aims to ensure that every World War II veteran and all the families of those who served and sacrificed knows that they are remembered, even if it’s through a virtual commemoration,” said Holly Rotondi, executive director of Friends. “On September 2, we remember the estimated 30-35 million people that died during the war in the Pacific and the 60 million people lost worldwide, including 400,000 Americans, during the deadliest military conflict in human history.”

At 10:30 a.m., Friends will begin its daylong online coverage of the 75th anniversary of Victory over Japan Day (known as V-J Day) on its [Facebook Page](#). The virtual commemoration will feature remarks from several World War II veterans, Friends Chairman Josiah Bunting III, Friends Vice Chairwoman Jane Droppa, Superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks Jeffrey Reinbold, and representatives from the Embassies of Pacific Theater Allied Nations. In addition, singer and Helen Hayes Award Nominee Mary Millben will perform a musical tribute. Members of Friends’ WWII 75th Anniversary Honorary Committee will also offer remarks, including Tom Brokaw, Special Correspondent for NBC News; World War II veteran and Pro Football Hall of Fame Coach Marv Levy; and Frederick W. Smith, Chairman and CEO of the FedEx Corporation. Additionally, several professional sports teams will commemorate the end of WWII, including a message from NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell. The Military District of Washington will provide military support.

At 11 a.m., Friends will stream live online from the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., where they will join the National Park Service and representatives from the Pacific Theater Allied Nations in presenting wreaths at the “Freedom Wall,” a field of 4,048 sculpted gold stars each representing 100 American military deaths during World War II, in memory of all Americans and Allies who served and sacrificed during the war.

Throughout the rest of the day, Friends will be sharing on its social media channels numerous videos collected from WWII veterans and others reminiscing and reflecting on V-J Day. This virtual commemoration marks the end of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial’s four-year WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration, which began on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 2016. Friends is the only organization that has marked the 75th Anniversary of every major battle in which American troops participated during World War II. The video archives of all the WWII 75th Anniversary events are available on the [Friends website](#).

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.

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