

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

February 9, 2021

**TELEVISION BROADCASTER AND PRODUCER ROBIN ROBERTS TO RECEIVE INAUGURAL  
BRIGADIER GENERAL CHARLES E. MCGEE  
UNITY AWARD FROM FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL**

*Annual award bestowed on an individual that exemplifies the spirit of unity and shared values that were prevalent during WWII, when Americans were at their very best and most unified.*

**Washington, D.C.** - The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will publicly present its first UNITY Award to Robin Roberts on February 14, 2021, the 77<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gen. McGee's first mission during World War II.

Named for a true gentleman who embodies and lives by these American ideals, retired Air Force Brigadier General Charles E. McGee, one of the last living members of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen, this award is a significant recognition of those actively working for the betterment of their community and beyond, and for living up to the moral integrity exemplified by Gen. McGee and his fellow members of the "Greatest Generation."

To highlight this spirit of unity and Gen. McGee's enduring values and noted accomplishments, Friends of the National World War II Memorial is proud to present the first Brigadier General Charles E. McGee UNITY Award to television broadcaster and trailblazer Robin Roberts, herself the daughter of a Tuskegee Airman, for inspiring and motivating people across the nation every day with her positivity, strength, courage, and faith.

"Gen. McGee and Robin Roberts both fought to succeed when the odds were stacked against them," said Josiah Bunting III, chairman of Friends. "Both have defied misconceptions and prejudices and dispelled long-held myths, trailblazing their way through their chosen professions with humanity and dignity and succeeding due to their exemplary leadership, work ethic, and abilities. Their commitment to excellence and integrity are inspirational and serve as beacons of unity and hope."

As we search for positive role models, we can look to the World War II Memorial, and we can look to the lives of Gen. McGee and Robin Roberts for inspiring examples of honor, integrity, and unity. Friends of the National World War II Memorial is proud to honor Robin Roberts with the Brigadier General Charles E. McGee UNITY Award.

The award ceremony will feature testimonials from the following:

- Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Mark Milley
- WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veteran and Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. George Hardy
- Michael Strahan, co-host, ABC's *Good Morning America*
- Washington Football Team President Jason Wright
- Robin Roberts' siblings: Dorothy, Lawrence, and Sally-Ann
- Brig. Gen. McGee's children: Charlene, Ronald, and Yvonne
- WWII veteran and NFL Pro Football Hall of Fame Coach Marv Levy
- Jeraldine Lehman, widow of WWII veteran and Tuskegee Airman Lt. Col. Paul Lehman Jr.
- John Stankey, Chief Executive Officer, AT&T Inc.
- John W. McCaskill, WWII Memorial living history volunteer and member of Friends' Teachers Network

The Brigadier General Charles E. McGee UNITY Award presentation video will be released on Sunday, February 14 at 10 a.m. ET and will be available on Friends' website and social media channels ([YouTube](#), [Vimeo](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#)).

**About Friends of the National World War II Memorial ([www.wiimemorialfriends.org](http://www.wiimemorialfriends.org)):**

Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends), based in Washington, D.C., is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to teaching the lessons of yesterday to unite the generations of tomorrow. Founded in 2007 by the creators of the National World War II Memorial, Friends brings visitors together for national ceremonies and experiences at the Memorial and for online educational programs centered around the themes of American unity, shared values and ideals, and the spirit of community.

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