

As we close-out a milestone year, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial would like to thank YOU for all you have done to help us to continue our important efforts of *teaching lessons of yesterday to unite generations of tomorrow*.

With your support and participation, in 2022, Friends:

- Continued to lead the effort to add [President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "D-Day Prayer"](#), one of the largest mass prayers in history, to the WWII Memorial and to restore the "Circle of Remembrance" – the area where the prayer will be placed. Senator Robert Portman (R-OH) introduced the bipartisan legislation, the World War II Memorial Prayer Act, which directed the Secretary of the Interior to install a plaque at or near the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. inscribed with the words of the prayer that President Roosevelt shared with the nation on D-Day, June 6, 1944. The legislation stipulated that no federal funds could be used to implement this directive. Therefore, Friends took on the responsibility of designing and funding the project. The project's design, by landscape architecture firm Oehme, van Sweden & Associates (OvS), received its final approval from the Commission of Fine Arts in January 2022. Thanks to the generous support of Lilly Endowment Inc., construction began on-site July 2022. Grunley Construction Company, Inc. is the general contractor for the project. Friends anticipates the Circle of Remembrance to be open to the public in early-January, with full completion of the project in February 2023. A formal dedication ceremony will be held later in the year. This is an important and meaningful addition that will complete the Memorial, which is visited by nearly five million people each year, providing a contemplative space to reflect on and remember the more than 400,000 American souls lost during WWII.
- Worked with Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), the "Mother of the World War II Memorial", and Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-IL) in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senators Mike Rounds (R-SD) and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) in the U.S. Senate to pass [bipartisan legislation](#) in the House and Senate that will raise private funds to help provide maintenance support of the World War II Memorial. President Biden signed the bill into law on August 3, 2022. The Greatest Generation Commemorative Coin Act authorizes the U.S. Treasury to mint coins in 2024 in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the dedication of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Proceeds from the sale of the commemorative coins will be used to maintain and repair the Memorial, as well as for robust educational and commemorative programming.
- Continued to create robust **educational programming**, including our annual [summer teachers conference](#), our [monthly virtual education conference series](#), and visits to local area high schools with renowned WWII author and now Friends' Resident Historian Alex Kershaw. More than ever young people need to be inspired by true heroes and heroines - role models who often gave their lives to change the world for the better. Because, [Character is Destiny!](#) These significant and impactful programs are made possible by the generous support of the [Jack C. Taylor / Enterprise Rent-A-Car WWII Memorial Education Endowment](#).
- Awarded 2022 [Brigadier General Charles E. McGee UNITY Award](#) to former Secretary of Commerce and Transportation **The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta** for Mineta's lifelong public service as a military veteran, Congressman, Cabinet member, and advocate for noble causes in the pursuit of educating our youth about democracy and what it means to be an American citizen. Named for a true gentleman, retired Air Force Brigadier General Charles E. McGee, who passed on January 16, 2022, at 102, embodied and lived by the highest American ideals throughout his life. This annual award is a significant recognition of individuals actively working for the betterment of their community and living up to the moral integrity espoused by General McGee and his fellow members of the "Greatest Generation." Norman Mineta, who passed on May 3, 2022, at 90, and Charles McGee are two men who overcame great adversity with grace, grit, and courage. In turbulent times, we will look to the example set by these two, so that we will be inspired by the power of unity and be reminded of the meaning of sacrifice.
- Hosted in-person and online [commemorations](#) on V-E Day, Memorial Day, D-Day, V-J Day, Veterans Day, and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. We also marked the 80th anniversaries of the Doolittle Raid and the Battle of Midway. The commemorations, both at the World War II Memorial and online, honored the 16-million-strong men and women who wore the uniform of the U.S. Armed Forces during WWII, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions more who supported the war effort from home.
- Presented the **10th Annual Haydn Williams WWII Memorial Legacy Lecture** featuring award-winning author Ian W. Toll at the National Defense University.
- Hosted an unforgettable ["Victory in Europe" tour of London, Normandy, and Paris](#) led by best-selling author Alex Kershaw. We discovered London during WWII with a visit to Churchill's legendary war rooms in Whitehall and explored Grosvenor Square, the heart of the American presence in London during WWII. We relived the highlights of D-Day combat at Pointe du Hoc and on Omaha Beach before paying our respects at the graves of those buried in the Normandy American Cemetery and we heard the story of the American airborne operation on D-Day and the extraordinary success of the Utah landings. We liberated Paris, following in the footsteps of American troops who fought to the heart of the City of Lights on August 25, 1944 after more than 1,500 days and nights of Nazi occupation.

Additionally, Friends launched a monthly essay series authored by Friends' Resident Historian Alex Kershaw, continued to capture interviews with World War II veterans; profiled hundreds of WWII veterans on our social media channels; worked with a tremendous group of dedicated volunteers; and much more.

**We couldn't have accomplished any of this without you and your generous support and active participation!**

As we transition into a new year with new challenges and opportunities, I am so very grateful for your continued and invaluable support.