

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NEARLY 40 D-DAY AND WWII VETERANS TO COMMEMORATE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF
D-DAY AND OPERATION OVERLORD AT THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL**

*Allied embassy representatives to join veterans to lay wreaths in memory of the Allied soldiers
killed or wounded during the invasion 75 years ago that paved the way for the Allied victory in Europe*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – On Thursday, June 6th at 10:00 a.m., the Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will host an Operation Overlord (D-Day) 75th Anniversary Commemoration at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. The ceremony and wreath presentation at the Memorial’s Freedom Wall will commemorate 75 years since 160,000 Allied troops landed along a 50-mile stretch of heavily fortified French coastline to fight Nazi Germany on the beaches of Normandy, France.

As part of the ceremony, nearly 40 World War II veterans – including several D-Day and Operation Overlord veterans – along with representatives from each of the Allied Nations that took part in the Normandy Campaign will lay wreaths at the National World War II Memorial in honor of the more than two million Allied service members who took part in Operation Overlord and to remember the more than 225,000 Allies who were killed, wounded, or missing.

Renowned author Alex Kershaw (*The Bedford Boys, The Liberator, The Longest Winter, The First Wave*) will serve as the event’s master of ceremonies and expert historian. Friends Chairman Josiah Bunting III and Jeffrey Reinbold, Acting Superintendent of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, will offer welcome remarks.

Students from Salk STEM Middle School Magnet in Elk River, Minnesota, will also participate in the ceremony. Musical tributes will be performed by the United States Army Band (Pershing’s Own). Military support will be provided by the Military District of Washington, D.C.

The ceremony is open to the general public and we encourage registration [through our website](#).

The Friends of the National World War II Memorial is the only organization hosting a four-year WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration, marking each major battle in which American forces participated, at the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

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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