

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
May 30, 2018

Contact
Thalia Ertman
202.543.0878 or 301.802.7320

**NEARLY A DOZEN D-DAY AND WWII VETERANS TO COMMEMORATE
74TH ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL**
*Wreaths will be laid at the Atlantic Arch of the Memorial in memory of the
9,000 Allied soldiers killed or wounded during the invasion.*

Washington, D.C. – On Wednesday, June 6th at 11:00 a.m., the Friends of the National World War II Memorial will host a brief ceremony and wreath presentation at the World War II Memorial’s Atlantic Arch to commemorate the 74 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

Friends chairman Josiah Bunting III will provide remarks. Mr. Bunting is a Vietnam veteran, Rhodes Scholar, and former superintendent of his alma mater, the Virginia Military Institute.

During the ceremony, Megan Rosener will perform the song “Heroes,” which was written by her father Marty Rosener in tribute to World War II veterans. A portion of the proceeds from sale of the song will go to the Friends’ FDR D-Day Prayer campaign. Friends has been charged with the immense and honored responsibility of designing and funding the addition of President Franklin Roosevelt’s D-Day Prayer to the Memorial, as mandated by Congressional legislation signed into law by President Obama in 2014.

As part of the ceremony, approximately ten WWII and D-Day veterans will place wreaths at the Atlantic Arch of the World War II Memorial in memory of the 9,000 Allied soldiers killed or wounded during the invasion.

Following the ceremony, several of the WWII will participate in a brief ceremony honoring them and commemorating D-Day at Nationals Park preceding the baseball game at 1:05 p.m. on June 6th (Washington Nationals vs. Tampa Bay Rays).

Who: D-Day/World War II Veterans
Friends Chairman Josiah Bunting III
Chaplain Garry R. Thornton, Jr., CDR/CHC/USN, Joint Plans and Operations Chaplain
Megan Rosener, performing the song “Heroes”
Commodore Martin Connell, UK Naval Attaché, British Embassy
Mark H. Buzby, Maritime Administration Representative
Military District of Washington

Where: National World War II Memorial
17th Street between Constitution and Independence Avenues
Washington, DC

When: Wednesday, June 6, 2018 at 11:00 AM

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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