

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 31, 2016

**WORLD WAR II AND D-DAY VETERANS  
TO COMMEMORATE ANNIVERSARY OF D-DAY AT THE WWII MEMORIAL**

*Event will mark 72 years since the June 6, 1944 invasion of Normandy, France and will honor the more than 9,000 Allied soldiers killed or wounded on that day.*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will commemorate the 72 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 during a special commemoration and wreath presentation at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC on Monday, June 6, 2016 at 10:00 AM.

Honor Flight Bay Area (California), with over two dozen WWII and D-Day veterans, will take part in this special commemoration.

As part of the ceremony, several 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.

European Union Ambassador to the United States David O’Sullivan will speak and present a wreath during the event.

Friends chairman Josiah Bunting III will also provide remarks. The Military District of Washington will provide military support for the event.

Additionally, weather permitting, throughout the day visitors to the Memorial will be able to visit an on-site educational exhibit developed by World War II Memorial Volunteer Daniel Arant.

**About Friends of the National World War II Memorial ([www.wwiimemorialfriends.org](http://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. To meet this mission, Friends sponsors an annual public lecture series featuring prominent historians; provides teachers with curriculum materials; 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 and staging five or more major national commemorative events annually and each summer sponsors a dozen free public performances of military bands at the Memorial. 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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For media inquiries:

**Friends of the National World War II Memorial**

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