

August 6, 2025

MEDIA ADVISORY

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL TO HOST 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WORLD WAR II CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK

SUMMARY:

Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) will host its Haydn Williams World War II Memorial Legacy Lecture Conference next week marking eight decades since the Allied victory in World War II - the deadliest conflict in human history. "The Victors: The 80th Anniversary of the End of World War II" will take place from August 13-14, 2025 at the Military Women's Memorial in Arlington, Va.

WHO:

- *New York Times* best-selling author Alex Kershaw
- Author and historian Dr. Craig Symonds
- Military historian and attorney Richard Frank
- Alistair Carns, United Kingdom minister of veterans and people
- Superintendent Kevin Griess, National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service

WHAT:

"The Victors" will explore how triumph was secured across both the European and Pacific theaters, tracing the military, political, and moral decisions that shaped the final chapters of the war. The conference will feature sessions by *New York Times* best-selling author and Friends' Resident Historian Alex Kershaw, Dr. Craig Symonds, Richard Frank; tours of the World War II Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery; and a remembrance ceremony at the WWII Memorial. Friends is offering the opportunity for the public to participate virtually only if they have not registered for the in-person sessions to watch live.

Free registration is required at: <https://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org/haydn-williams-world-war-ii-memorial-legacy-lecture-conference>

WHERE:

Military Women's Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and National World War II Memorial

WHEN:

Wednesday, August 13 and Thursday, August 14, 2025

*Media can RSVP to attend in-person sessions of the conference to Scott Warner of Friends of the National World War II Memorial at swarner@wwiimemorialfriends.org.

The full conference agenda can be found online at:

<https://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org/haydn-williams-world-war-ii-memorial-legacy-lecture-conference>

*Media inquiries may be directed to Scott Warner at swarner@wwiimemorialfriends.org.

About Friends of the National World War II Memorial (www.wwiimemorialfriends.org):

Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., as a sacred place of remembrance, learning, and inspiration. Established in 2007 by the Memorial's creators, Friends leads efforts to maintain this iconic site, ensuring it remains a must-see destination for over five million visitors annually. Through meaningful ceremonies, impactful educational programs, and vital preservation initiatives, Friends honors the legacy of the Greatest Generation and shares the enduring lessons of World War II, inspiring unity, shared values, pride in America, and hope for the future.

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