

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2025

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL'S STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF BRIGADIER GENERAL EVELYN "PAT" FOOTE, USA (RET.)

Washington, D.C. - August 13, 2025 – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) is deeply saddened by the passing of Brigadier General Evelyn "Pat" Foote, USA (Ret.), a founding member of its board of directors and part of the five-member team of the American Battle Monuments Commission "World War II Memorial Site and Design Committee".

"Brigadier Gen. Foote was a trailblazer as she was the first female brigade commander in Europe, first female inspector general of the Army, and the first female commanding general of Fort Belvoir," said Jane Droppa, chair of the board of Friends. "Her leadership after her military service is particularly impressive as she continued to serve her country to support the role of women in military services. Our nation has lost a great patriot and exemplary American leader and citizen."

Foote was born in 1930 in Durham, N.C. She graduated from Wake Forest University with a degree in sociology, working her way through college, in part, as a file clerk for the FBI. She joined the Women's Army Corps at the age of 29.

She rose the ranks and, in 1967, was sent to Vietnam to be the first female public relations officer in Saigon. During her 30-year career, she commanded at the company, battalion, brigade, and major installation levels. She lobbied for the recruitment of more women into the armed forces after the draft ended in the 1970s, and commanded one of the integrated training battalions. In 1986, she became one of only four female generals in the Armed Forces.

Foote was awarded the Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Legion of Merit with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Army General Staff Identification Badge.

She was appointed by President Clinton to serve on the American Battle Monument Commission and served on the original committee charge with the site selection, architectural competition, and construction of the National World War II Memorial. She was instrumental in ensuring that a quote from a military woman would be included in the Memorial's design. She was also the founding president of the Alliance for National Defense, a nonprofit formed to be a reasoned voice for women serving in the armed forces.

We celebrate and honor the life of Brigadier Gen. Foote today. Rest in peace.

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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