

May 5, 2026

MEDIA ADVISORY

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF VICTORY IN EUROPE DAY

SUMMARY:

On Friday, May 8 at 11:00 a.m., Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) and the National Park Service (NPS) will commemorate the 81st anniversary of the Allied forces victory in the Atlantic and the end of World War II in Europe with a special V-E Day event hosted at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. and online.

WHO:

- Dr. Kevin Griess, superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks
- Jane Droppa, chair, Friends of the National World War II Memorial
- Representatives from Allied nations
- World War II veterans
- U.S. Army Brass Quintet

WHAT:

Griess, Droppa, WWII veterans, and other dignitaries will present wreaths at the WWII Memorial's Freedom Wall in remembrance of the more than 400,000 Americans and 60 million people killed worldwide in the deadliest military conflict in human history. The program will be streamed live via the Friends Facebook page. The National Park Service will co-host the event, and the Military District of Washington will provide military support. The event will be preceded by a special video commemoration hosted on Friends' Facebook page.

WHERE:

National World War II Memorial, 1750 Independence Avenue SW, Washington, D.C. 20024, and online via [Friends' Facebook page](#)

WHEN:

Friday, May 8, 11:00 a.m. ET

*For more information, contact Scott Warner 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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