

May 19, 2026

MEDIA ADVISORY

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE MEMORIAL DAY AND REMEMBER 400,000 AMERICANS LOST DURING WWII

SUMMARY:

On Saturday, May 23, beginning at 10:00 a.m. ET, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends), and the National Park Service (NPS) will commemorate Memorial Day with a special ceremony hosted at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., and live-streamed via the Friends Facebook page.

WHO:

- World War II veterans
- Dr. Kevin Griess, superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks
- Claude “Mick” Kickligter, former chair, Friends of the National World War II Memorial
- U.S. Army Brass Quintet

WHAT:

Friends and the NPS will pay tribute to the more than 400,000 Americans who lost their lives during WWII in a special Memorial Day Observance at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. ET. Veterans and other dignitaries will lay wreaths at the Freedom Wall to remember their fallen brothers and sisters. The Military District of Washington will provide military support, including an Armed Forces Color Guard, a U.S. Army brass quintet, and a bugler to play “Taps” after the ceremony.

The ceremony will be streamed live via the Friends Facebook page.
(<https://www.facebook.com/WWIIMemorialFriends>).

WHERE:

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

WHEN:

May 23, 10:00 a.m.

For more information, contact Scott Warner at swarner@wwiimemorialfriends.org

Notes for Media:

- Please note the ceremony date of Saturday, May 23.
- The ceremony is rain or shine, with the only exception for lightning. The ceremony will be paused immediately for everyone’s safety if lightning is in the area.

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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