

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 13, 2026

**STATEMENT BY FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL
WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL ON VANDALISM AT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) released the following statement regarding vandalism today at the National World War II Memorial:

"We are deeply disturbed by the reported vandalism at the National World War II Memorial today. Whatever the intent, defacing a place dedicated to the service and sacrifice of the World War II generation is unacceptable.

The National World War II Memorial is more than stone, bronze, and water. It is a sacred place of remembrance—a place where veterans, families, students, and visitors from across our nation and around the world come to reflect on the courage, sacrifice, unity, and service of a generation that helped preserve freedom.

There are many places in our country for expression, debate, and disagreement. A national memorial honoring those who served and those who never returned home should never be used as a canvas for vandalism.

Friends of the National World War II Memorial remains steadfast in our commitment to preserve, protect, and honor this national treasure and to ensure that it remains a place of dignity, reflection, gratitude, and learning for generations to come.

The Memorial belongs to all of us. Its history belongs to all of us. And caring for it is a responsibility we all share."

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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For media inquiries:

Friends of the National World War II Memorial

Scott Warner

swarner@wwiimemorialfriends.org