

August 28, 2026

MEDIA ADVISORY

FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE THE 81st ANNIVERSARY OF V-J DAY

SUMMARY:

On Wednesday, September 2, at 11:00 a.m. ET, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, and the National Park Service will commemorate the 81st anniversary of V-J Day (Victory over Japan Day) and the end of World War II at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C.

WHO:

- Jane Droppa, chair, Friends of the National World War II Memorial
- Dr. Kevin Griess, superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks, National Park Service
- Chaplain (LTC) Yul E. Song, Military District of Washington
- Military District of Washington's Armed Forces Color Guard
- The United States Army Band "Pershing's Own" Brass Quintet

WHAT:

The official party will place wreaths at the World War II Memorial's Freedom Wall in remembrance of the more than 400,000 Americans and 60 million people killed worldwide during the deadliest military conflict in human history. Representatives from the Friends of the National World War II Memorial and the National Park Service will deliver remarks.

The Military District of Washington will provide military support, including an Armed Forces Color Guard, a United States Army Band, and a United States Army Band trumpeter who will play "Taps" after the ceremony.

The ceremony is free and open to the public. [Registration](#) is encouraged, and will also be streamed live via the Friends' [Facebook page](#).

WHERE:

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

WHEN:

Wednesday, September 2, 11:00 a.m. ET

For more information, contact 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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