



Greetings!

As we prepare to close out another milestone year, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial would like to thank YOU for all you have done to help us in our efforts to honor and preserve the national memory of World War II, to renew and reinvigorate the spirit of unity and shared purpose which defined the character of our country during the war years, and to create the next "Greatest Generation" of tomorrow.

With your support and participation, in 2018, Friends:

- Hosted **14 Commemorative Events** at the WWII Memorial, including seven very special 75th anniversary events as well as our annual V-E Day, Memorial Day, D-Day, V-J Day, Veterans Day, and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day observances.



We were proud to welcome hundreds of WWII veterans and their families, embassy representatives of our Allied Nations, and friends like you to these historic events. And this weekend, we will sing Christmas carols and other holiday songs at the WWII Memorial in celebration of this wonderful Season of Giving! If you weren't able to join us for these special ceremonies, you can [watch the videos here](#). And, don't forget to check out our [2019 Schedule of Events](#)...we'll be hosting a record 25 commemorative events at the WWII Memorial next year! *The Friends of the National World War II Memorial's WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration is generously sponsored by AT&T with additional support from support from the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation and Worthington Industries.*

- Hosted the **Third Annual Friends of the National World War II Memorial Teachers Conference** in Washington, DC attended by nearly 50 teachers from across the country as part of our mission to educate current and future generations about the everyday men and women whose character, courage, creativity, determination, and innovation not only led to the winning of the war, but also reshaped America. The conference featured presentations by fellow educators and other experts in the area of WWII history, tours of sites of WWII significance, a remembrance ceremony at the WWII Memorial, and discussions with WWII veterans. All the presentations and discussions are [available for viewing on our website](#).



Planning is now underway for next year's conference which will take place from **July 16-20** at **Georgetown University** and will explore developments in industry and production, science, technology, and the variety of innovations that took place in the U.S. during World War II. As a condition for participation in our annual education conference, Friends asks conference participants to return to their schools and communities to work with their students to conceive, develop, and implement a year-long community service project. I look forward to sharing with you soon updates on projects that are right now being put in to action in cities and towns across the United States. *A special thanks to The Taylor Family and the Crawford Taylor Foundation for their generous support of Friends' education programs through the Jack C. Taylor / Enterprise Rent-A-Car WWII Memorial Education Endowment.*

- Presented the 6th Annual [Haydn Williams World War II Memorial Legacy Lecture](#) featuring military historian Victor Davis Hanson. The lecture was held at the National Defense University and was attended by WWII veterans and active duty military from the U.S. armed forces and around the world.



- Continued to lead the effort to add **President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "D-Day Prayer,"** one of the largest mass prayers in history, to the WWII Memorial and to provide a contemplative space to remember the more than 400,000 American souls lost during WWII. You can learn more about this project [here](#).



Additionally, Friends continued to capture interviews with World War II veterans and other members of our Greatest Generation through the [Voices of World War II](#) program, profiled hundreds of WWII veterans on our [Facebook](#) page; worked with a tremendous group of dedicated volunteers; and much more.

We couldn't have accomplished any of this without you and your generous support and active participation!

2019 promises to be the most ambitious year yet for Friends. As we transition into a new year with new challenges and opportunities, I am so very grateful for your continued and invaluable support. And, I hope you will continue to think of us during this special Season of Giving.

If you'd like to help us in our important mission of honoring and preserving the national memory of World War II and creating the next "Greatest Generation" of tomorrow, please click here to donate today!

I look forward to seeing you at the World War II Memorial in the new year!

With best wishes,

Holly Rotondi

Executive Director, Friends of the National World War II Memorial

P.S. Don't forget to check out the [WWII 75th Anniversary Calendar of Events](#)! The first event of 2019 will be the **Battle of Monte Cassino 75th Anniversary Commemoration** on Thursday, January 17th.
