



*Wishing you and your family a very healthy and
happy holiday season!*



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 2017, we:

- Hosted **fifteen commemorative events** at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC; including, eight very special 75th anniversary battle commemorations as well as our annual V-E Day, Memorial Day, D-Day, V-J Day, Veterans Day, and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day



observances attended by hundreds of our treasured WWII veterans. And, just this weekend, we sang Christmas carols and other holiday songs at the WWII Memorial in celebration of the season! If you weren't able to join us for these special ceremonies, you can [watch the videos here](#) or, perhaps, replay our [Facebook Live](#) videos.

- Hosted the **Second Annual Friends of the National World War II Memorial Teachers Conference** in Washington, DC which was attended by 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, a panel discussion featuring WWII veterans sharing their experiences and stories from World War II and a second panel discussion featuring members of the American World War II Orphans Network whose fathers' were killed during WWII. All the presentations and the panel



discussions are [available for viewing on our website](#). Planning is now underway for next year's conference which will focus on the complex, and sometimes contradictory, theme of unity viewed through the historical experience of Americans in World War II, specifically the experiences of women, Japanese Americans, Jewish Americans, and African Americans. A special thanks to The Taylor Family for their generous support of Friends' education programs through the *Jack C. Taylor / Enterprise Rent-A-Car WWII Memorial Education Endowment*.

- Presented the 5th Annual [Haydn Williams World War II Memorial Legacy Lecture](#) featuring Stanford University **Professor David M. Kennedy**. Professor Kennedy's thought-provoking lecture, titled "*A Tale of Three Cities: How the United States Won WWII*," explored the American "Grand Strategy" in World War II. The Legacy Lecture was held at the National Defense University and is archived on our website.



- 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.

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 your generous support and active participation!

2018 promises to be another historic year for Friends as we move forward with our ambitious four-year WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration, which will feature more than 60 commemorations at the WWII Memorial; continue with our efforts to fulfill the congressional mandate to add President Roosevelt's D-Day Prayer to the Memorial site; and host our third annual teachers conference here in Washington, DC.

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!

All the best,

Holly Rotondi

Executive Director, Friends of the National World War II Memorial