

 *Wishing you and your family a very happy and healthy 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 mission to "honor and preserve the national memory of World War II."

With your support and participation, in 2016, we:

- Hosted commemorative events at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC on V-E Day, Memorial Day, D-Day, V-J Day, and Veterans Day. And, just weeks ago we marked the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor at the Memorial with a poignant Candlelight Vigil and Reading of the Names of the 2,403 men and women killed on that day of infamy 75 years ago as well as a special commemoration attended by **Vice President-elect Mike Pence, Senator John McCain, and Elliott Roosevelt III**, the great-grandson of Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt. Most especially, we were honored by the presence of **30 World War II veterans**, including **7 Pearl Harbor Survivors**, and their families. If you weren't able to join us for these special ceremonies, you can [watch the videos here](#).
- Hosted the first annual **Friends of the World War II Memorial Teachers Conference**, featuring seven presentations by fellow educators and other experts in the area of WWII history, three tours of sites of WWII significance, a remembrance ceremony at the WWII Memorial, and a panel discussion featuring four WWII veterans sharing their experiences and stories from World War II. All the presentations and the WWII veteran panel discussion are [available for viewing on our website](#).
- Continued to capture interviews with World War II veterans and other members of our "Greatest Generation" through the **Voices of World War II** program. These unique memories and cherished stories are digitally preserved and [archived on our website](#). You may use the search functions to find a specific video and you can also leave a message of thanks and remembrance for our veterans and all those who contributed to the war effort.
- Presented the **4th Annual Haydn Williams World War II Memorial Legacy Lecture** featuring **Dr. Craig Symonds**. Dr. Symonds' thought-provoking lecture, titled "*Infamy: The Japanese Attack on Pearl*



*Harbor,"* was held at the National Defense University and will be available on our website in the coming weeks.

- Continued to lead the effort to implement the **World War II Memorial Prayer Act** of 2013 (Public Law 113-123)



directing the Secretary of the Interior to add “the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on D-Day, June 6, 1944” to the WWII Memorial. Friends engaged the original WWII Memorial landscape architect team and, working with the National Park Service, has successfully secured the necessary federal approvals for the site placement and initial design concept for this new addition to the Memorial.

- Said goodbye to our founder and the "father" of the WWII Memorial, WWII veteran **Ambassador F. Haydn Williams**, who passed away in April at the age of 96.
- Additionally, Friends hosted concerts by military bands at the Memorial throughout the



spring and summer months; profiled hundreds of WWII veterans on our Facebook page; worked with a tremendous group of dedicated volunteers; and much much more.

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

2017 promises to be another historic year for Friends as we move forward with our ambitious four-year World War II 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 second 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 sacred mission to ensure that the National World War II Memorial continues to serve as a living history lesson for all Americans, please click here to***

***[make a donation 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