

September 13, 2019

## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### **FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL TO COMMEMORATE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARIES OF OPERATION MARKET GARDEN AND THE BATTLE OF ANGAUR**

#### **SUMMARY:**

On Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m., the Friends of the National World War II Memorial will hold a brief ceremony and wreath presentation at the National World War II Memorial to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of Operation Market Garden, the largest airborne operation of the war, and the Battle of Angaur, a stepping stone to liberating the Philippines.

The Allies launched Operation Market Garden to capture key bridges in the Netherlands and open a route across the Rhine. This bold gamble ultimately failed, leaving the Allies to find another way through Germany's western defenses.

In the Pacific, the 81<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division continued the campaign for Palau by invading the island of Angaur. The troops on Angaur successfully captured the island as a potential stepping stone to the Philippines.

The Operation Market Garden and Battle of Angaur 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorations are part of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial's four-year WWII 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration, which kicked off on Pearl Harbor Day 2016 and will go until VJ-Day 2020. Friends is the only organization hosting a full four-year 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration, marking every major battle in which American troops participated during World War II.

#### **WHO:**

- World War II veterans, including veterans with Eastern Iowa Honor Flight
- Major General Mark C. Schwartz, Special Assistant to the Director of the Army Staff
- Colonel Patrick Robichaud, Embassy of Canada
- Defense Attaché Paul Herber and Sergeant Major Ingrid Roosendaal (Navy), Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Lieutenant Colonel Karol Budniak, Embassy of Poland
- Commander Jim Morley, Assistant Naval Attaché, British Embassy
- U.S. Army Chaplain (Captain) Russell Woody
- The Venerable Martin Gough QHC, Chaplain of the Fleet and Archdeacon for the Royal Navy
- Jan C. Scruggs, founder of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- U.S. Army Band Bugler
- Military District of Washington

#### **WHAT:**

WWII veterans, MG Schwartz, and representatives of our Allied Nations will present wreaths at the Atlantic and Pacific Arches of the Memorial in remembrance of the more than 17,000 Allies killed, wounded, or missing during Operation Market Garden and the more than 1,600 Americans killed or wounded during the Battle of Angaur. The Military District of Washington will provide military support.

#### **WHERE:**

National World War II Memorial, 1750 Independence Ave SW, Washington, D.C. 20024

#### **WHEN:**

Tuesday, September 17, 11:30 a.m.

\*Media can RSVP to Thalia Ertman at [tertman@wwiimemorialfriends.org](mailto:tertman@wwiimemorialfriends.org) or Scott Warner at [swarner@wwiimemorialfriends.org](mailto:swarner@wwiimemorialfriends.org)

*The Friends of the National World War II Memorial's WWII 75th Anniversary Commemoration is generously sponsored by AT&T. Generous support has also been provided by the Albert and Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation and Worthington Industries.*

#### **About Friends of the National World War II Memorial ([www.wwiimemorialfriends.org](http://www.wwiimemorialfriends.org)):**

Founded in 2007, the Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends) is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to honoring and preserving the national memory of World War II and to creating the next "Greatest Generation" of tomorrow. To meet this mission, Friends sponsors an annual public lecture series featuring prominent historians; hosts an annual teachers conference in Washington, DC; and collects and archives video interviews of World War II veterans and other members of the Greatest Generation. Additionally, Friends has the lead responsibility in planning, staging, and funding five or more major national commemorative events annually and is currently sponsoring a national four-year World War II 75th anniversary commemoration. Friends relies on private support to breathe new life into the Memorial and to ensure that it continues to serve as a living lesson for all Americans.