

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FRIENDS OF THE NATIONAL WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL APPLAUD REPRESENTATIVES  
MARCY KAPTUR AND ADAM KINZINGER FOR REINTRODUCTION OF BILL AUTHORIZING  
COMMEMORATIVE COIN TO SUPPORT WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL**

**WASHINGTON, D.C. February 16, 2021** – Friends of the National World War II Memorial today applauded Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur (D-OH) and Congressman Adam Kinzinger (R-Ill.) for introducing the National World War II Memorial Commemorative Coin Act which authorizes the U.S. Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. Proceeds from the sale of the commemorative coins will be used to maintain and repair the Memorial, as well as for commemorative and robust educational programming.

Similar legislation was introduced in the House in the last Congress and the bill garnered 172 cosponsors. Under Congressional rules for commemorative coin bills, at least 290 cosponsors in the House are needed to bring a commemorative coin bill to the House floor for a vote. A companion bill is expected to be introduced in the Senate over the next several weeks.

The National World War II Memorial was dedicated in Washington, DC, on May 29, 2004 – the culmination of a 17-year effort. The World War II Memorial is the first national Memorial dedicated to all who served during World War II and acknowledges the commitment and achievement of the entire nation. The Memorial honors the 16 million who served in the Armed Forces of the U.S. during World War II, the more than 400,000 who died, and the millions who supported the war effort here at home.

The commemorative coin will serve as an important representation of the spirit, sacrifice, and commitment of the brave Americans who fought to defend the nation and advance peace and freedom throughout the world. The proceeds of the sale of each coin will go to the Friends of the National World War II Memorial, a 501(c)(3) non-profit founded in 2007, to maintain and repair the Memorial, and to ensure educational and commemorative programming remains robust and substantial. Friends plays a vital role in educating the American public about World War II; preserving and maintaining the National World War II Memorial as a treasure for the American people; and facilitating key commemorative programs at the Memorial to pay a fitting tribute to America's "Greatest Generation."

"The World War II Memorial serves as a great symbol of how unifying our country was and can be," said Holly Rotondi, executive director of the Friends of the National World War II Memorial. "We are grateful to Congresswoman Kaptur and Congressman Kinzinger for recognizing the importance of the Memorial as a singular place in the U.S. to commemorate World War II and its veterans so we can teach the lessons of yesterday to unite the generations of tomorrow."

The National World War II Memorial Commemorative Coin Act has the endorsements of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Commemorative Air Force, Afikim Foundation, and 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division Association, Inc.

144 Members of Congress joined Representatives Kaptur and Kinzinger as original cosponsors of the legislation.

Today, the Memorial is a top destination for millions of annual visitors from all over the country and the world. For many young visitors, their visit to the Memorial is a first glimpse at a grateful nation's remembrance of the sacrifices made by the brave men and women who fought against tyranny. For WWII veterans, the Memorial is a special destination, a rendezvous point, and a gathering place for reflection, reunions, and commemorative programs. The Memorial stands as an important symbol of America's national unity, a timeless reminder of the moral strength and power that flows when free people are united and bonded together in a common and just cause for liberty.

The coins are expected to be minted in 2023.

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

Friends of the National World War II Memorial (Friends), based in Washington, D.C., is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to teaching the lessons of yesterday to unite the generations of tomorrow. Founded in 2007 by the creators of the National World War II Memorial, Friends brings visitors together for national ceremonies and experiences at the Memorial and for online educational programs centered around the themes of American unity, shared values and ideals, and the spirit of community.

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