

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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400 Local Area Youth to Honor Gold Stars of World War II During Memorial Day of Service

400 teens to lay wreaths at National WWII Memorial, march in Memorial Day Parade with portrait photos of those who made the ultimate sacrifice in WWII

Youth leaders to present Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff, with Spirit of '45 Medal



Washington, DC – More than 400 local area youth will be “meeting at the Mall” on Memorial Day (Monday, May 30) to honor the service of the men and women of America’s “greatest generation.”

At 9:00 AM, at the National World War II Memorial (17th Street and Constitution Ave) youth and WWII veterans from the Armed Forces Retirement Home will present Admiral Michael Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, with a Spirit of '45 Leaders Medal, after which they will place flowers in wreaths honoring each of the service branches, the Merchant Marine, and the Home Front and the more than 400,000 who made the ultimate sacrifice during WWII who are represented by the wall of Gold Stars at the World War II Memorial. Buglers will stand at each of the state columns to perform “Amazing Grace” and “Taps” during the ceremony.

Each youth will carry an enlarged portrait image individuals who gave their lives in service during WWII, including those of Admiral Isaac Kidd who died aboard the USS Arizona and more than 100 of the sailors and marines who were also killed during the attack on Pearl Harbor. Others to be honored will be Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr., the Sullivan Brothers, the Four Chaplains, members of the famous Tuskegee Airmen, the all Japanese American 442nd Military Fighting Unit, Latino-Americans who were posthumous recipients of the Medal of Honor, nurses who died in combat, and nearly 200 images of the fathers of members of the American WWII Orphans Network which represents the 183,000 children of servicemen who did not return from the war. (www.AWON.org)

At 2:00 PM, youth will step off at the corner of Constitution Avenue and 7th Street, N.W. to march past the White House as part of the National Memorial Day Parade with a float commemorating the 70th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, as the buglers play a tribute to the Gold Stars of WWII from the steps of the National Archives.

The youth are part of a national initiative to promote public awareness about Spirit of '45 Day. Last year Congress unanimously voted in support of a national day of remembrance to honor the legacy of service of the men and women of the ‘greatest generation’ to be observed on the second Sunday of every August, to coincide with the anniversary of August 14, 1945, the day America learned that WWII was over and began the work of rebuilding the world.

www.Spiritof45.org