WAR WIDOW’S PREPARE FOR REMEMBRANCE

On Saturday 7th November members of the War Widows’ Association will gather for their Annual Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehall at 12.30pm. Members, family, friends and supporters will gather in King Charles Street from noon and be joined by the Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor The Lady Christabel Flight; also in attendance will be Mark Lancaster, Parliamentary Under-Secretary (Ministry of Defence); the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe; representatives from the Royal British Legion and up to 15 American Widows from the Tragedy Assistance Programme for Survivors (TAPS).

The service is conducted by the Chaplain to the Association; during the simple service the silence is observed and a tribute made of Chrysanthemums, poppies and rosemary is laid in remembrance of fallen loved ones. The tribute is in the shape of the cross; the design was chosen to reflect the wooden cross which traditionally marked the place where a soldier had fallen on the battlefield.

Saturday is only one day in four days of events which commence on Thursday 5th November with Trustees and members attending the Official Opening of the Field of Remembrance at Westminster Abbey. Then on Thursday evening Trustees will dine at the House of Lords as guests of their President Baroness Fookes and Vice Presidents Viscount Younger, Baroness Dean and Baroness Garden.

Friday 6th November is a business day when Trustees hold their Committee meeting, an all day event starting at 9.30am; amongst other things they will be finalising the arrangements for the War Widows’ Association Annual Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehall on Saturday 7th.
The weekend of Remembrance Commemorations will conclude when many Trustees and members return to Whitehall for the National Service of Remembrance on Sunday 8th November before making their journey home to all parts of the United Kingdom. As well as our President and Chairman this year members from Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England will be joined by some of the participants from the Albert Hall Festival of Remembrance, Kathryn Williams and her three boys; Amelia Stead and daughter Holly and Sheila Griffiths-Gibson and her daughter Poppy.

The War Widows’ Association Chairman Mrs Irene Wills, BEM; will be in attendance at all events,

Notes to Editors:

1. The War Widows’ Association (WWA) was founded in 1971.

2. The War Widows’ Association Service is held each year on the Saturday immediately preceding the Sunday National Service of Remembrance.

3. The War Widows’ Association is managed totally by volunteers; we do not have any paid staff or permanent offices.

4. The achievements of the War Widows’ Association to date can be accessed at www.warwidows.org.uk.

5. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales is Patron of the War Widows’ Association and the President is Baroness Fookes DBE DL.

6. Tragedy Assistance Programme for Survivors (TAPS), http://www.taps.org/

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Through the Generations – Moving Forward Together