

## PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Chelsi Smith / Amy Jones, The Point Group  
Phone: 214-378-7970 ext. 238 / 302  
Mobile: 956-358-3300 / 469-261-7544  
[csmith@thepointgroup.com](mailto:csmith@thepointgroup.com) / [ajones@thepointgroup.com](mailto:ajones@thepointgroup.com)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
August 10, 2017

### JAPANESE CONCENTRATION CAMP PRISONER TO SHARE STORY OF SURVIVAL WITH PUBLIC

CARY, N.C., August 10, 2017 – Ronny Herman de Jong is a resident at Waltonwood Cary Parkway, but her journey to the senior living community was anything but normal. **De Jong is a survivor of two Japanese concentration camps for women and children during World War II.** She has since published four books on her life in brutal captivity. The first one, “In the Shadow of the Sun,” was released in 1992 and is based on the secret camp diary of her mother Netty. In 2011, de Jong published her memoir “Rising from the Shadow of the Sun: A Story of Love, Survival and Joy.” It details her years in captivity and adds cameos of her life after the war. The final two books were published in 2014 and 2015. “Survivors of WWII in the Pacific” is an anthology with stories by Navy men and survivors who were teenage prisoners during the war, including a story about the Navajo Code Talkers, who were instrumental in ending the War in the Pacific. De Jong will share her story of survival at the community located at 750 SE Cary Parkway on Tuesday, August 15 at 2:30 p.m. The event is **open to the public** and those interested in attending need to **RSVP to (919) 275-0983.**

“I have presented to large and small crowds before, but this will be different because I call Waltonwood home,” **said de Jong.** “Many people have heard about the war in Europe, the Holocaust, the atomic bombs and even the military battles in Asia, but not about the Pacific Holocaust. Little has been written about the Japanese invasion of the Dutch East Indies and the terrible conditions in the POW camps. I was there and survived. Now, I share my story hoping to inspire others never to give up hope. If you are interested in history, the power of hope against all odds and the strength and resilience of women, then you will be enriched by my presentation.”

De Jong was born in the Dutch East Indies in 1938. When she was three years old, the island of Java was conquered by the Japanese and her family was forced into prison camps where they suffered until August 1945. De Jong, her mother and sister endured starvation, disease and uncertainty under the brutal regime of the Japanese. They lived one day at a time without contact with the outside world. They were unaware of the bombs that were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki until the Japanese surrendered and the war was over. De Jong’s story is also about life after the war. She went on to graduate from high school and attend college in the Netherlands where she earned a B.A. in English Literature. She married her husband Mike and emigrated to the United States with two daughters, a

baby son and their dog. They recently moved from Arizona to North Carolina and now call Waltonwood Cary Parkway home.

“I live very much in the present, and I am focused on the future, but I often think about the past,” **said de Jong**. “World War II was the deadliest conflict in human history. It’s hard not to think about that when I tell my story. I hope the public and residents find my story educational and encouraging.”

“De Jong’s presentation will be inspiring for everyone to see,” **said Christina Henderson, life enrichment director at Waltonwood Cary Parkway**. “We have never had a presentation like this before. I know the residents and public will be moved after hearing what she went through and how she was able to overcome adversity and be here today.”

The presentation will be held in the Independent Living Theater on August 15 at 2:30 p.m.

If you are a member of the media interested in covering this story, or setting up an interview please contact Chelsi Smith via phone at 214-378-7970 ext. 238 or email at [csmith@thepointgroup.com](mailto:csmith@thepointgroup.com) or Amy Jones via phone at 214-378-7970 ext. 302 or email at [ajones@thepointgroup.com](mailto:ajones@thepointgroup.com).

## **ABOUT WALTONWOOD CARY PARKWAY**

Waltonwood Cary Parkway offers seniors a dignified, individualized community where residents can thrive. The community offers independent living cottages, and independent, assisted living and memory care apartments in studio, one- and two-bedroom floor plans, creating a continuum of care where residents can enjoy an active lifestyle and receive care if they need it. The community offers many engaging amenities, including a theater, therapy pool, putting green, garden view lounge and private courtyards throughout its acreage. Residents receive the most up-to-date advances in senior living, including the specially designed Forever Fit program and a Montessori-based dementia care program. The community is located close to US 1, with new retail shopping, dining and entertainment close by, and just minutes from Raleigh. Waltonwood Cary Parkway also has a sister-community currently under construction in the Lake Boone area of Raleigh, at 3550 Horton Street. If you are interested in learning more about Waltonwood Cary Parkway, please visit [www.waltonwood.com](http://www.waltonwood.com) or call 919-275-0983.

-End-