Our Mission: to Remember - Honor - and Teach

Remember the fallen;

Honor those who serve;

Teach our children the value of freedom.

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free."

Ronald Reagan
40th United States President (1911 – 2004)

The Wreaths Across America story began over 20 years ago when Worcester Wreath Company (a for-profit commercial business from Harrington, Maine) began a tradition of placing wreaths on the headstones of our Nation's fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery during the holidays.

Over that period of time, Worcester Wreath has donated 90,000 wreaths which were placed by volunteers in a wreath-laying ceremony each December. But as word spread, the mission to Remember; Honor; and Teach about the sacrifices made by our veterans has captured the hearts and minds of many communities across the Country.

December 11th 2011~ National Wreaths Across America event to honor veterans at Arlington National Cemetery, All 50 States and Puerto Rico. and at the locations listed below in Illinois.

We invite you to join us for the Statehouse wreath ceremony to be held 11:00AM on December 7, 2011 at the DAV during the Pearl Harbor Day ceremony – Springfield, IL. This statehouse wreath symbolizes the departure of the wreaths from Harrington, MA on their trek to Arlington.

Contact Information
Location Leader: Chaplain Steve Holden, United States Emergency Chaplains Corps
Contact Number: (217) 963-2772
We invite you to join us in 2011 at any of the wreath-laying ceremonies to be held nation-wide concurrently on Saturday, **December 11th, 2011** at 12:00 noon EST (11:00 AM local).

**Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery - Elwood, IL**

**Contact Information**  
*Lead Squadron or Group:* Operation Care Package (www.operationcarepackages.org)  
*Location Leader:* Debbie Smothers  
*Contact Number:* 815-723-6960

**Alton National Cemetery - Alton, IL**

**Contact Information**  
*Location Leader:* Margaret Hopkins  
*Contact Number:* 618-474-2005

**Camp Butler National Cemetery - Springfield, IL**

**Contact Information**  
*Lead Squadron or Group:* American Legion Riders Post 32  
*Location Leader:* David McKnelly  
*Contact Number:* 217-415-6464

**Danville National Cemetery - Danville, IL**

**Contact Information**  
*Lead Squadron or Group:* Patriot Guard Riders - Illinois  
*Location Leader:* Dave Switzer  
*Contact Number:* 217-497-6682

**DAV #60 covers Mount Hope & Funks Grove & etc McLean**

**Contact Information**  
*Lead Squadron or Group:* DAV #60- Illinois  
*Location Leader:* Cleo Jordan  
*Contact Number:* 309-874-2717

**Glendale Cemetery - Washington, IL**

**Contact Information**  
*Location Leader:* Carol K Moss  
*Contact Number:* 309-444-9076

**Korean/Vietnam Memorial - Bloomington, IL**
Contact Information
*Lead Squadron or Group:* State Farm Military Affinity Group  
*Location Leader:* Larry Wilder  
*Contact Number:* 309-766-6954

**Middle East Conflicts Memorial Wall - Marseilles, IL**

Contact Information  
*Lead Group:* Middle East Conflicts Memorial Wall & Marine Families Support Group  
*Location Leader:* Craig Herkes  
*Contact Number:* 815-462-5932

**Mound City National Cemetery - Mound City, IL**

Contact Information  
*Lead Squadron or Group:* Patriot Guard Riders - Illinois  
*Location Leader:* Brian Samuel  
*Contact Number:* 618-559-2849

**Military Memorial Tuscola- IL**

Contact Information  
*Lead Squadron or Group:* 328th Composite Sq based out of Mattoon  
*Volunteer Location Leader:* Tammy Brandt  
*Telephone:* 217-637-0244

**Pulaski Park - LaSalle, IL**

Contact Information  
*Location Leader:* Toni Lucas  
*Contact Number:* 270-793-9799

**Rock Island National Cemetery - Rock Island**

Contact Information  
*Lead Squadron or Group:* Quad City Composite Squadron CAP  
*Location Leader:* Lt. Col. Thomas Nielsen  
*Contact Number:* 309-797-1588

**Springdale Cemetery Peoria, IL**

Contact Information  
*Lead Squadron or Group:*
Location Leader: Jon Austin  
Contact Number: 309-681-1400

Sunset Cemetery at Veterans Home - Quincy, IL

Contact Information  
Lead Squadron or Group: Amvets Post 104  
Location Leader: Teresa Pickle  
Contact Number: 217 222 9571

Quincy National Cemetery - Quincy, IL

Contact Information  
Lead Squadron or Group: Amvets Post 104  
Location Leader: Teresa Pickle  
Contact Number: 217 222 9571

Wreaths Across America was formed as a non-profit organization (501-C3 status - EIN 20-8362270) in 2007, in direct response to the many letters and requests from supporters all around the Country, about how they too could get involved and bring the Arlington Wreath Project experience to their local communities. If you would like to help sponsor one or more wreaths to be laid at one of the over 200 state and national cemeteries all across the Country, please sponsor a wreath at http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/act-now/

What started over 20 years ago, as one's man's dream to honor Veterans with Maine wreaths for the holidays, has become an annual event cherished by many. Humbled with a new understanding about the impact the Arlington Wreath Project has made, not only in honoring the dead, but recognizing the sacrifices of the living, Morrill Worcester - President of Worcester Wreath Company committed himself to doing more, by reaching out across the country.

Morrill Worcester - President of Worcester Wreath Company explains his desire to develop the Wreaths Across America project:

"Our goal is to expand the recognition of those who serve our country, both past, present, and future, as well as their families who deserve our support. Without the sacrifices of our veterans, there would be no opportunity to enjoy the freedoms, the life we live today."