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CT NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE MEMBER AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

WEEKLY BULLETIN

800-858-2677 or www.facebook.com/CTNGFamilies

Wreaths Across America

Honoring veterans at over 1,100 locations—and growing with your help

Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, was a 12 year old paper boy for the *Bangor Daily News* when he won a trip to Washington D.C. His first trip to our nation's capital was one he would never forget, and Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. This experience reminded him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of this nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans. Arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year.

A person dies twice: once when they take their final breath, and later, the last time their name is spoken.

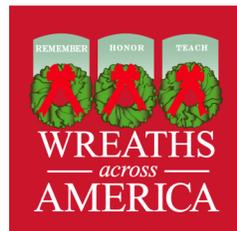
The annual tribute went on quietly for several years, until 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the project received national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help with Arlington, to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries, or to simply share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes.



Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state, one for each branch of the military, and for POW/MIAs. In 2006, with the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies were held at over 150 locations around the country. The Patriot Guard Riders volunteered as escort for the wreaths going to Arlington. This began the annual "Veterans Honor Parade" that travels the east coast in early December.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual veterans wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501-(c)(3) organization, to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. The mission of the group is simple: *Remember. Honor. Teach.*

In 2008, over 300 locations held wreath-laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves. Over 60,000 volunteers participated. December 13, 2008 was unanimously voted by the US Congress as "Wreaths Across America Day".



In 2014, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers laid over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond, including ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, as well as Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the sites of the September 11 tragedies. This was accomplished with help from 2,047 fundraising groups, corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands. The organization's goal of covering Arlington National Cemetery was met in 2014 with the placement of 226,525 wreaths.



Remember, the Service Member and Family Support Center is now on Facebook! If you'd like to stay connected and receive instant news, benefits and updates, just "LIKE" us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/CTNGFamilies! If you have any questions or require assistance with a Family Readiness or Family Assistance issue, please contact our office at 1-800-858-2677.



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CT NATIONAL GUARD SERVICE MEMBER AND FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

MWR BULLETIN

800-858-2677 or www.facebook.com/CTNGFamilies

Volunteering with Wreaths Across America

Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.

—Helen Keller

How can I help?

We can't do it without you. Whether you are a single individual, a corporation, a volunteer group, a trucker or a trucking company, there are plenty of ways you can get involved in helping us honor and remember our nation's fallen servicemen and women.



SPONSOR A WREATH



VOLUNTEER AT AN EVENT



DONATE TO A LOCAL FUNDRAISING GROUP



START A LOCAL FUNDRAISING GROUP



ADD A NEW CEMETERY LOCATION



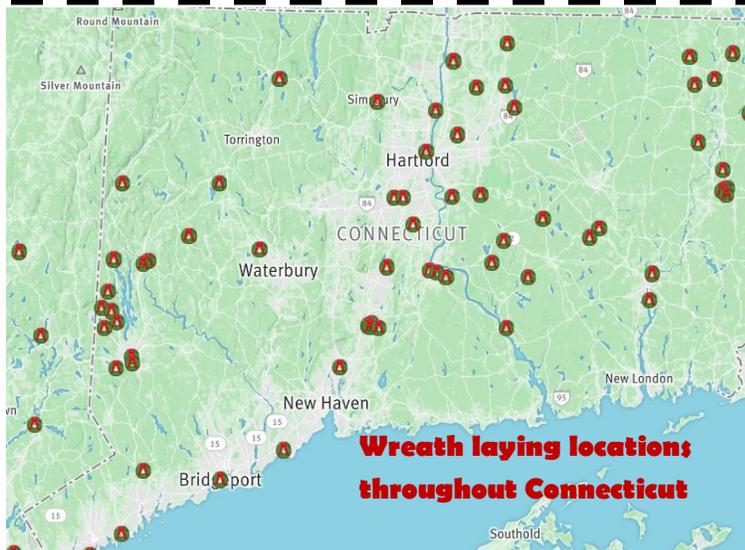
OFFER CORPORATE SUPPORT



OFFER TRUCKING SUPPORT



SHARE THE WAA MISSION & EXPERIENCE



Wreath laying locations throughout Connecticut

The wreath-laying is still held annually, on the second or third Saturday of December. WAA's annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery has become known as the world's largest Veterans' parade, stopping at schools, monuments, Veterans' homes and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to **remember, honor and teach.**



Join us on National Wreaths Across America Day

December 17, 2016

To learn more about how you can volunteer or donate go to:
www.wreathscrossamerica.org



An act of kindness throws out roots in all directions, and the roots spring up and make new trees.

—Amelia Earhart



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