



MEDIA ADVISORY

Bennington Vermont Veterans Home to Host Ceremony on National Wreaths Across America™ Day

WHAT: Bennington Vermont Veterans Home Cemetery, an official Wreaths Across America (WAA) location, will host a wreath-laying ceremony, joining more than 1,200 other locations across the country for National Wreaths Across America Day. Coordinated and led by local volunteers, Community has raised \$2000.00 to place 500 wreaths on the headstones of our fallen service members. This annual event seeks to further the WAA mission of Remember, Honor, Teach, ensuring that the memory of those who served our country endures.

WHEN: **Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017**
11:30 am: Instructions for ceremony
12:00 pm: Ceremony begins

WHERE: **Bennington Vermont Veterans Home Cemetery**
325 North Street Bennington, Vermont 05201

WHO: Veterans, active service members and families, local dignitaries, and state representatives, school groups, Girl Scouts, and Cub & Boy Scouts

About Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at more than 1,200 veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

Location Contact:
Col. Al Faxon
(802) 447-6544
allan.faxon@vermont.gov

Wreaths Across America Media Contact:
Amber Caron
207-513-6457 (cell)
pr@wreathsassamerica.org



MEDIA ADVISORY

Vermont Veterans Cemetery to Host Ceremony on National Wreaths Across America™ Day

WHAT: Bennington Vermont Veterans Home Cemetery, an official Wreaths Across America (WAA) location, will host a wreath-laying ceremony, joining more than 1,200 other locations across the country for National Wreaths Across America Day. Coordinated and led by local volunteers, Community will place wreaths on the headstones of our fallen service members. This annual event seeks to further the WAA mission of Remember, Honor, Teach, ensuring that the memory of those who served our country endures.

WHEN: Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017
11:40 am: Instructions for ceremony
12:00 pm: Ceremony begins

WHERE: Vermont Veterans Cemetery
487 Furnace Road Randolph Center, VT 05061

WHO: Veterans, active service members and families, local dignitaries, and state representatives, school groups, Girl Scouts, and Cub & Boy Scouts

About Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at more than 1,200 veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

Location Contact:
Robin Law
robinlaw033@gmail.com

Wreaths Across America Media Contact:
Amber Caron
207-513-6457 (cell)
pr@wreathscrossamerica.org



YEAR ESTABLISHED
501(c)3 since 2007
Placing wreaths since 1992

TOTAL STAFF: 19

TOTAL REVENUE PER 990
\$10,778,325

TOTAL EXPENSES PER 990
\$11,039,265

FUNCTIONAL: \$11,039,265
PROGRAMS: \$9,352,886
ADMINISTRATIVE: \$1,543,807
FUNDRAISING: \$142,572

TOTAL NET ASSETS
(DEFICIT) PER 990: <\$575,235>

CONTACT INFORMATION
4 Point Street
Po Box 249
Columbia Falls, ME 04623
(877) 385-9504

info@wreathscrossamerica.org
WreathsAcrossAmerica.org
facebook.com/WAAHQ
Twitter @WreathsAcross



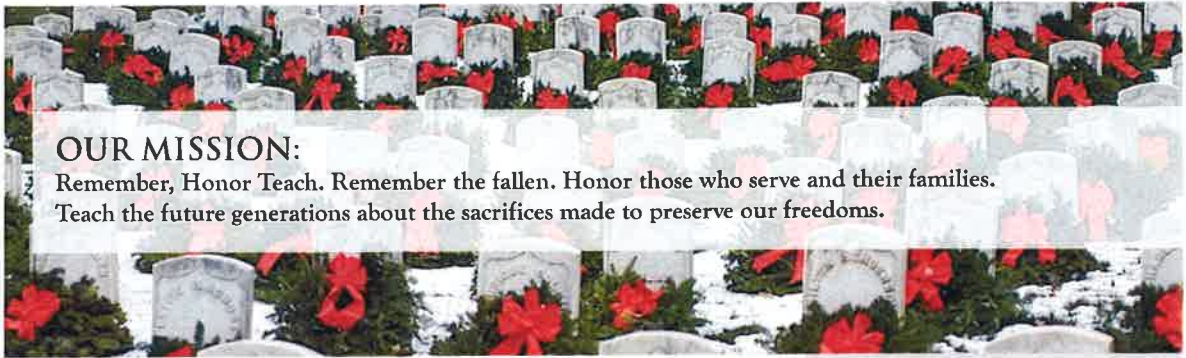
Morrill Worcester
Founder



Wayne Hanson
Chairman of the
Board of Directors



Karen Worcester
Executive Director



OUR MISSION:

Remember, Honor Teach. Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve and their families.
Teach the future generations about the sacrifices made to preserve our freedoms.

"I AM AN AMERICAN...YES I AM!"

National Wreaths
Across America Day
Saturday, December 16, 2017

Volunteers can get involved at any of the 1,200+ participating locations in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and national cemeteries on foreign soil.



Join us and over 1,000,000 volunteers nationwide in placing a wreath on a veteran's grave. Invite your family and friends to an experience you will never forget, as we take a break from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season to honor our service men and women and their families.

For a complete list of participating locations, visit
WreathsAcrossAmerica.org

2016 RECAP

- Over 1,200,000 wreaths placed at 1,226 locations nationwide.
- Over 45,000 attendees braved the cold rain, ice and wind to participate the Arlington National Cemetery wreath laying event.
- Increased support resulting from Board Chairman's emotional outreach on Fox News.

4 WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

1. Sponsor a Wreath

Honor veterans in your local community by sponsoring a wreath that will be placed on a veteran's grave. You choose the location. Groups can get involved as a fundraising project.

2. Add a New Location

Coordinate a wreath-laying ceremony at a cemetery or veteran's memorial in your town. Determine if this location is already participating by checking our website. We have resources to help you plan your ceremony.

3. Start a Fundraising Group

Your civil, nonprofit, school or other group can help raise wreath sponsorships for Arlington or your local cemetery. A portion of the funds can be returned to help your group. We offer resources and assistance to ensure your success.

4. Volunteer

Volunteer to place wreaths on a veteran's grave at any of our 1,200+ participating locations. Involve your friends and family to honor our service men, women and families.

Top-Rate Non-Profit
in 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016
by GreatNonProfits.org

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Karen Worcester

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wayne Hanson: Chairman
Wayne Merritt: V. Chairman
Renee Worcester: Secretary
Joseph Tibbetts: Treasurer
Ron Sailor
Sarah Worcester
Pamela Slaven-Lee
Dan LeClair
Patrick Simmons
James Farrell
Ruth Stonesifer
Barry Pottle
Lorna Harris
Kathryn Condon
Ann Hanson
Kevin Haley
David Russen
Dan Mead

ADVISORY BOARD

Michael Calenda
Michael Edgecomb
Scott DeMasi
Duane Delanger

GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

Every \$15 places a wreath to honor our veterans.

- Sponsorship of wreaths to any participating location
- Donation of trucking and transportation of wreaths
- Give your employees time to participate on National Wreaths Across America Day.

The willingness of America's veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude. — Jeff Miller



Our Story

One man's annual tribute to our veterans inspired a legion of volunteers and gave rise to the Wreaths Across America of today



Top - Worcester, Founder of Wreaths Across America and his wife Meme Worcester, Executive Director

Merrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Weath 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 followed him throughout his life and successful career, reminding 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 Weath 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. With the aid of Meme Senator Olympia Snowe, 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.



As plans were underway, a number of other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. James Froot, owner of local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation all the way to Virginia. Volunteers from the local American Legion and VFW Posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington, D.C. helped to organize the wreath-laying, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

"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."

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 link with Arlington, to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries, or to simply voice their stories and thank Merrill Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes.



The above image, posted in 2005, helped to spread the word about the Wreaths Across America project and inspired the thousands of volunteers who have since participated.

Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending wreath kits to every state, one for each branch of the military, and for POW/MIA's. In 2009, 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.

The annual trip to Arlington and the groups of volunteers eager to participate in Worcester's simple wreath-laying event grew each year until it became clear the desire to remember and honor our country's fallen heroes was bigger than Arlington, and bigger than this one company.

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.

"The annual trip to Arlington and the groups of volunteers eager to participate in Worcester's simple wreath-laying event grew each year until it became clear the desire to remember and honor our country's fallen heroes was bigger than Arlington, and bigger than this one company."

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. And that year, 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 1,600 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.

The wreath-laying is still held annually, on the second or third Saturday of December. WAA's annual pilgrimage from Haverhill, 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**.



Wreaths Across America also conducts several programs to honor our veterans, including the popular "Thanks a Million" campaign which distributes cards to people all over the country to give veterans a simple "thank you" for their service. WAA participates in veterans' events throughout the year, and has a veteran liaison on staff to work with local veterans organizations.

WAA is committed to teaching younger generations about the value of their freedoms, and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. The organization offers learning tools, interactive media projects, and opportunities for youth groups to participate in the events. They also work to create opportunities to connect "the Greatest Generation" with the "Generation of Hope", passing on inspirational stories from World War II veterans to the leaders of the future.

Wreaths Across America would not be successful without the help of volunteers, active organizations and the generosity of the trucking industry, which offer invaluable support to WAA's mission to remember the men and women who served our country, honor our military and their families, and teach our children about our freedom and those who protect it. There are many ways you can help—[learn more](#) about how you can get involved.

[DONATE](#) [MERCHANDISE](#) [CONTACT](#) [SEARCH](#) [SIGN IN](#)

 WREATHS *across* AMERICA



Get Involved

[Fundraise](#)
[Volunteer](#)
[Donate](#)
[Add a Location](#)

About Us

[Blog](#)
[Our Story](#)
[Board of Directors](#)
[Financials](#)

Resources

[FAQs](#)
[Official Policies](#)
[PR / Media Kit](#)
[Style Guide](#)
[Downloadable Forms](#)

Contact Us

[Customer Service](#)
[General Inquiries](#)
[Vendor Inquiries](#)
[Press](#)

Write to Us

PO Box 248
Columbia Falls, ME 04621
Phone: (207) 473-0967
Toll Free: (877) 385-9504

EIN# 20-8363270

Subscribe to the Wreaths Across America eNewsletter

Receive the latest news, updates, and the stories from our mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach about the service and sacrifice of our veterans, and their families.

[YES - I WANT THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER!](#)

Visit the WAA Museum

Monday thru Friday 9am-4pm
4 Point Street
Columbia Falls, ME 04621
Toll Free: (877) 385-9504

[GET DIRECTIONS](#)



Background & FAQ

Who We Are

- Wreaths Across America™ (WAA) is a national nonprofit organization founded in 2007 to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992.
 - 1992: First wreaths (5,000) donated by Morrill Worcester and Worcester Wreath Co.
 - 2005: Iconic photo of wreaths in snow became a viral sensation
 - 2007: Wreaths Across America formed as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization
 - Organization governed by board of directors. Day-to-day operations managed by Executive Director Karen Worcester.
 - 2012: 1 millionth wreath placed at Arlington National Cemetery
 - 2014: For the first time, every headstone at Arlington National Cemetery received a wreath – 227,000 in total.
 - 2016: 25th year that wreaths were placed at Arlington National Cemetery
- WAA's mission – **Remember, Honor, Teach** – is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington, as well as at veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.
- Since its founding, the organization has expanded to include more than 1,500 local fundraising groups in all 50 states, representing more than 1,200 participating locations, along with our nation's cemetery at Arlington.
- Every year since 2008, Congress proclaims a date in December as National Wreaths Across America Day. This year, it will be held on **Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017**.

2016 Numbers

- 1.2 million remembrance wreaths were placed in total across the country – 245,000 of them at Arlington National Cemetery.
- Close to a million volunteers participated at 1,228 locations nationwide, with more than 44,000 volunteers laying wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery.
- More than 400 truckloads of wreaths were delivered across the country by hundreds of volunteer professional truck drivers.

What We Do

REMEMBER

- WAA's annual pilgrimage from Columbia Falls, 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.
- Special memorials are held at Pearl Harbor, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, one of the four 9/11 tragedy locations.
- The HART Ceremony (Honoring Allies and Remembering Together) is conducted each year to honor veterans of our nation's allies in ceremonies on international border-crossing bridges between Calais,

Maine and St. Stephen, New Brunswick, Canada; Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario, Canada; and Sweetwater, Montana and the Alaskan/Canadian border.

- WAA hosts statehouse ceremonies in nearly all 50 states.

HONOR

- WAA conducts several programs to honor our veterans, including our popular Thanks-A-Million campaign, which distributes free thank-you cards to people all over the country to share with veterans as a simple thank-you for their service.
- The organization participates in veterans' events throughout the year as well as public outreach through Veterans Day and Memorial Day programs, public service announcements, press coverage and the WAA website. WAA has a veteran liaison on staff to work with local veterans' organizations.

TEACH

- WAA is committed to teaching younger generations about the value of their freedoms and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. We offer learning tools, interactive media projects and opportunities for schools, 4-H clubs, Scouts and other youth groups to participate in our efforts.
- A downloadable curriculum and books are available to help schoolchildren appreciate the roles our veterans played in preserving their freedoms. These materials are designed to encourage the direct involvement of local veterans.

Why do you do what you do?

We understand we have Veterans Day in the fall and Memorial Day in the spring, but our service members sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year to preserve our freedoms.

In many homes, there is an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season. We hope you will join us at any of our more than 1,200 participating locations to show our veterans and their families that we will not forget. We will never forget.

Why does WAA make so many stops on its way to deliver the wreaths to Arlington?

In 2006, it was decided that instead of a quick trip to Arlington, the Patriot Guard Riders would escort the wreath trucks down the East Coast and take several days to make the trip. This would allow stops at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities and give the group an opportunity to promote its mission: Remember, Honor, Teach.

Why do you use live wreaths?

Wreaths Across America does not "decorate" headstones. We are honoring all veterans and active military members by placing live wreaths on the headstones of veterans. The fresh evergreens have been used for centuries as a symbol recognizing honor and as a living tribute renewed annually. We want people to see the tradition as a living memorial to veterans and their families.

What are the sources of funding for WAA?

We receive no government funding. National Wreaths Across America Day and other events are made possible by thousands of volunteers who organize local ceremonies, raise funds to sponsor wreaths and participate in the events. Morrill Worcester of Worcester Wreath Co. – the founder of WAA – continues to be a major donor of wreaths each year, but the majority of the cost for the program is paid for by individual wreath sponsors, corporate donors and volunteer truck drivers and companies.

Does WAA have a religious or political affiliation?

Wreaths Across America is not affiliated with any religion or political party. It is our mission to remember and honor every fallen military service member during the holiday season, no matter what is happening in the nation or overseas.

How can I get involved?

There are a number of ways for volunteers to get involved. Please keep in mind that there is **NO COST** to attend or participate in a Wreaths Across America event.

- National Wreaths Across America Day
- Escort of wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery (or any of the other locations featuring wreath escorts)
- Statehouse ceremony – in nearly all 50 states and at our nation’s capital
- HART ceremony (Honoring Allies and Remembering Together)
- “Thanks-A-Million” card program to thank our veterans and active military members
- WAA education program – work with our downloadable materials in your local schools

You can also volunteer to have another location in your state participate in the national remembrance ceremony or you can start or work with a local group to raise funds for the wreaths for your local ceremony or for Arlington.

For more information about this year’s events, to sign up to be a volunteer or to sponsor a wreath, please visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WAAHQ and follow us on Twitter [@WreathsAcross](https://twitter.com/WreathsAcross).

WAA Media Contact:

Amber Caron with Industrium

O: (207) 773-0700, ext. 235

C: (207) 513-6457

pr@wreathscrossamerica.org



0 ITEM(S) IN YOUR BAG / TOTAL: \$0 [view cart](#)

[Home](#) | [My Account](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Back to Main Site](#) |

search by keyword

GO [Home](#) > [Pins & Patches](#)

Category

- [Sponsorships](#)
- [Wreaths](#)
- [Military Tribute](#)
- [Wreaths](#)
- [Trucker Wreaths](#)
- [Pins & Patches](#)
- [Shirts & Hats](#)
- [Cards & DVDs](#)
- [Special Merchandise](#)
- [20% Off Items](#)
- [Donations](#)

WAA Patch

Part Number PATCH



[Email a friend](#)

Price

Your Price: \$4.00

Availability: In Stock

FREE SHIPPING

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Google+](#) [Pinterest](#) 0

[Like 591](#) [Share](#)

Send to:
myself

or add name: ?

*We'll ask for shipping info at checkout

Quantity 1 [Add to Cart](#)

Description

Show Your Support! Wreaths Across America's 3-inch embroidered patch displays our Remember, Honor, and Teach mission, and shows that you are part of something special. A great keepsake for those taking part in wreath-laying ceremonies

**** If you need this item expedited, please call the office to place the order ****

Related Items



[Rocker Patch- 2009-2016](#)

Your Price: \$1.00

[Add To Cart](#)



[***NEW 2017*** Rocker Patch](#)

Your Price: \$1.50

[Add To Cart](#)



[2015/16 Challenge Coin](#)

Your Price: \$15.00

[Add To Cart](#)



[20- New Wreaths Across America Pins](#)

Your Price: \$40.00

[Add To Cart](#)