



Two Local Color Guards Participated in the Wreaths Across America Program at Willamette National Cemetery

The Lewis & Clark Chapter Color Guard of the Oregon Sons of the American Revolution and the Grand Ronde Honor Guard participated in the Wreaths Across America Program to lay wreaths at veterans' graves at Willamette National Cemetery



PORTLAND, Oregon — December 18, 2021 – It was cold and rainy at Willamette National Cemetery this morning. Despite the weather, Oregonians turned out for the holiday tradition of laying wreaths on veterans' graves for Wreaths Across America.

The Lewis & Clark Color Guard was honored to provide a musket volley at today's event. In addition, the Color Guard was privileged to escort the Grand Ronde Honor Guard (Veterans' Board of the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community), who posted the colors at today's wreath-laying ceremony.

Native Americans serve in the United States' armed forces in greater numbers per capita than anyone else. The Oneida Indian Nation was the United States' first ally in the War for

Independence — playing a key role in the battles of Oriskany and Saratoga.



Local Oregon SAR volunteers worked hard all year selling wreaths to ensure that veterans laid to rest at Willamette National Cemetery were honored today on National Wreaths Across America Day.

“Part of what we do is not only sell wreaths at our public booth, but our Oregon SAR Color Guard will lay wreaths at specific veteran's graves, say their name and salute them in honor of their service,” said Michael Tieman, state president, Oregon SAR. “This year our Color Guard laid 91 wreaths at specific graves. From William Cannon, the

only Revolutionary War Soldier buried in Oregon, veterans of the war of 1812, WWI and WWII to veterans of current conflicts.”



This year, the ceremony, was held today simultaneously across the country at more than 2,500 participating locations.

The event was open to the public. All veterans, active-duty military, and their families as well as the local community were all invited and encouraged to attend and learn more about Wreaths Across America's yearlong mission to Remember, Honor, Teach. This event helps to teach not only the next generation but all community members and visitors about the services and sacrifices of our nation's military.

“With each local event held across the country, volunteers help build community awareness and understanding of the organization's year-long mission to Remember, Honor, Teach,” said Karen Worcester, executive director, Wreaths Across America. “However, in light of the current health crisis, we feel events like this one have taken on even more meaning by providing the opportunity for people to safely participate in something that is both educational and fun, while supporting and giving back to the community when it is needed most.”

Volunteers and supporters of the [Wreaths Across America](#) work throughout the year to honor our veterans through fundraising events, projects and services that better our community which in turn helps grow awareness for the mission to Remember, Honor, Teach, and generate wreath sponsorships for placement on National Wreaths Across America Day. This year, on **Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021**.

[Wreaths Across America](#) is the non-profit organization best known for placing veterans' wreaths on the headstones of our nation's fallen at [Arlington National Cemetery](#). However, the organization, in total, places more than 1.7 million sponsored wreaths at [2557 participating locations nationwide](#) and offers other programs throughout the calendar year. These programs include [The Mobile Education Exhibit](#) and [Wreaths Across America Radio](#), among other education programs.

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 thousands of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

For more information or to sponsor a wreath please visit www.wreathscrossamerica.org.

About the America250 SAR Committee

The America 250 SAR Committee works at the national, state, and local levels to promote the commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution and the formation of the United States. It develops educational programs, maintains a list of events, publishes articles and booklets, and publicizes the anniversary through media, education, and government contacts. The committee also helps the International Sons of the American Revolution Societies of Canada, France, Germany, Mexico, Spain, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom in planning their special celebrations.

Learn more at <http://www.sar.com>

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Photos and video available via Dropbox or available upon email request.

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