



## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA MUSEUM

On September 23, 2011 Wreaths Across America held the Grand Opening of its new museum.

Free to the public, the Wreaths Across America Museum is located at the former Columbia Falls Elementary School at 4 Point Street.

The 1,800-square-foot facility showcases hundreds of items that have been donated to Wreaths Across America over the past 19 years. These include personal photos, awards, uniforms, helmets and other military memorabilia. All donations help to provide insight and tell the greater story of the experiences of U.S. military personnel. Overall, the Museum serves to document Wreaths Across America's history and dedication to remembering those who gave their lives while serving their country, honoring those who serve and teaching the value of freedom to the next generation.

Over the years, hundreds of people have shared precious memories and donated their personal belongings to us to ensure the legacy and sacrifices of their loved ones. This Museum is the perfect forum for us to share their stories and the valuable items that we've been so honored to receive, while at the same time offering the public a place of comfort and healing.

Wreaths Across America initiated plans to build the museum in mid-2010 and was able to speed construction due to donations from hundreds of the organization's supporters and Maine-based companies County Concrete, Marden's, Poirier Construction, Cloud 9 Electric and Ellsworth Building Supply. The Wreaths Across America Museum is open to the public Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## THANK YOU CARDS

In 2010 Wreaths Across America started a campaign to thank 1 million veterans. We reached our goal to have 1 million cards distributed in our first year of this campaign.

Please help us to continue this great tradition. Order your FREE cards by visiting us online. We will send you FREE thank you cards you can present to any veteran or active duty personnel you know, meet, or see to thank them for their service.

“To me there is no greater thing I can do than to thank these people and this card is a tangible way of doing that. It is something they can keep and look at when times might not seem so good for them. I can't buy them fancy things or do glamorous things for them, but, I CAN thank them for what they have done for this country, or for what they are currently doing.” – Rae Wilson

Follow Wreaths Across America on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/WAAHQ> and on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/WreathsAcross>.



## Remembrance Tree Program

The Veterans Remembrance Tree Program was established as another way to remember and honor our veterans. As Gold Star families visited the land where the balsam tips are harvested each year for the wreaths that are placed on veteran's graves, they found a sense of peace and tranquility from the land. WAA established a program to give them a living memorial to their lost loved ones.

Each family can contact WAA and give information on their loved one. The family is taken out to the balsam tip land to find a tree that will become their living memorial to their loved one. The dog-tag is then placed on the trunk of an evergreen tree of their choosing. A red, white, and blue ribbon is placed on the tree to show that it has been chosen as a memorial. The trees are kept in production and are tipped every three years; those balsam tips are then used to make the veteran's wreaths that are placed each December.

To request a dog tag please visit: <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/remembrance-tree-program>

**COMING SOON:** We are replacing our former memory wall with a new, more robust and interactive feature called **Roll Call**. At this time we do not have information that can be released regarding this new feature but keep an eye on our website for updates!



## **Arlington Wreath Project**

Worcester Wreath Co. and its involvement with the Arlington project was inspired when at the early age of 12 years old, as a Bangor Daily News paperboy, Morrill Worcester won a trip to the Nation's Capital. It was a trip he would never forget, and Arlington National Cemetery made an indelible impression. In later life, he recognized that his success as a businessman was in large part, due to the values of this Nation and the Veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine found themselves with an excess of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Seeing an opportunity to make a boyhood dream a reality, efforts to do something special with those wreaths began in earnest. With the help of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe and the Maine State Society of DC, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington. Again an impression was made and he vowed to bring the wreaths every year.

In 2006, in response to thousands of e-mails and letters, Worcester Wreath expanded its wreath donations nationwide. With the help of the Civil Air Patrol and many others, ceremonies were held simultaneously at 230 locations. From the snow banks of Alaska to the sands of Iraq our Nation's heroes were honored. From here Wreaths Across America™ was born.

Heading into our 26<sup>th</sup> year and over a million wreaths later, the original group has been joined by many others who wish to participate in the project each year.

Please join us on December 16, 2017 at a participating location near you.

To find out more about how you can get involved with Wreaths Across America visit our website [www.wreathscrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org)

**Or contact our office at:**

877-385-9504 (phone)

866-956-1625 (fax)

**Or write to us:**

[info@wreathscrossamerica.org](mailto:info@wreathscrossamerica.org)

or

Wreaths Across America

P.O. Box 249

Columbia Falls, ME 04623

### **Ways to get involved in your area:**

\*Attend a Remembrance Wreath Laying Ceremony on December 16, 2017.

(A complete list of locations can be found on our website.)

\*Add a location for a ceremony if you do not have one close to you.

\*Start a fundraising campaign to help sponsor wreaths to be placed at Arlington National Cemetery or a participating cemetery of your choosing.

\*Hand out Service Appreciation cards to veterans and active duty personnel.

(These cards are free on our website but do have a \$5 s&h fee)

The WAA mission is:

*Remember ~ Honor ~ Teach*

**Thank you for your support!**



## **Wreaths Across America™**

By early 2007, with so many requests for cemetery wreaths, the Worcester are reached out to the community and the nonprofit group Wreaths Across America™ was formed. Mr. Worcester doubled his yearly pledge to Arlington to 10,000 wreaths and continued his tradition of sending 2,500 to the Maine Veterans Cemetery along with providing wreaths for the veteran's graves in the local communities of the small county he grew up in. Again in 2015 Ceremonial wreaths for each branch of the military were sent to all of the participating State and National cemeteries along with many local town cemeteries and monuments. Wreaths were also provided for 24 offshore cemeteries, including Normandy Beach and a large Veteran's commemorative wreath was sent to each state's State House for the ceremony on the Monday prior to the WAA Saturday event.

Inspired by his commitment Wreaths Across America™ has turned its attention to answering the requests of many to emulate the Arlington project at their State veteran's cemeteries. By offering sponsorships to the public, Wreaths Across America™ hopes that one day every veteran's resting place will be adorned with a wreath. We need your help to make this a reality.

**National Remembrance Ceremony:**

**DECEMBER 16, 2017**

**2017 THEME:**

**I'm an American, YES I am!**