

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Anne Atkins
(804) 371-0441

Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery Wreath Society kicks off campaign to place wreaths on all gravesites

SUFFOLK—At a meeting on September 24, members of the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery Wreath Society went into high gear in their campaign to collect funds to purchase evergreen wreaths for all gravesites in the cemetery. For the past three years, the Wreath Society has collected funds to place fresh wreaths throughout the cemetery in December. However, this could be the first year that wreaths are placed in only one or two sections of the cemetery if the Society is unable to meet their fundraising goal.

The Wreath Society has been fundraising and purchasing live wreaths since 2008. But, each year, their fund raising goal grows higher. In 2008, the Society collected \$8,400 and placed wreaths on 1,400 gravesites. In 2009, they collected \$18,720 for 2,400 wreaths. This past year, the number of grave sites increased more than 21% bringing their 2011 fund raising goal to \$28,690 for 3,375 wreaths.

“I’m sure we have enough people here in the Tidewater area who appreciate what our military community does every day and that we will meet our goal,” said Jeanne Banks, Chairwoman of the Wreath Society. She added, “If everyone gave just one dollar, what a wonderful thing that would be.”

Wreaths will be placed on the graves Saturday, December 10, 2011. If the fund raising goal is not met, wreaths will be placed in only one or two sections, depending on available funds. In future years, wreaths will be placed in different sections of the cemetery.

Veteran, military, and fraternal organizations, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and active duty personnel will begin laying the wreaths at 9:30 a.m. A ceremony will follow at 11:30 a.m. at the Committal Shelter. The ceremony will feature guest speakers, music, and a procession from the Committal Shelter to the last row of graves where active duty members from each service branch will place wreaths on the remaining headstones.

The Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery is one of three state-operated veterans cemeteries in Virginia. Two other cemeteries are located in Amelia and Dublin.

The Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery is located at 5310 Milners Road, Suffolk, VA. The public is encouraged to attend. Contributions can be sent to SunTrust Bank, 123 Main St., Suffolk, VA 23434. Checks can be made out to the Horton Wreath Society. For more information, please visit <http://www.hortonwreathsociety.webs.com>.

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