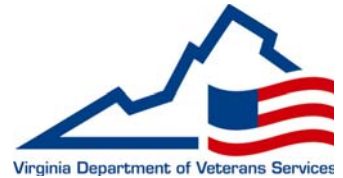


The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



900 East Main Street • Richmond, VA 23219 • www.virginiaforveterans.com

News Release

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

Wreaths to be laid on all graves at the Albert G. Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery; Ceremony to be held December 10

SUFFOLK – Evergreen wreaths honoring Virginia’s veterans will be placed on all gravesites in the Albert G. Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans’ Cemetery on Saturday, December 10, 2011.

The Albert G. Horton Wreath Society’s Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Horton Veterans Cemetery will begin at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, December 10. The Joint Services Color Guard will present the Colors, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts of America and the National Anthem sung by Betty Hand. The invocation will be led by Chaplain Robert Carpenter, CDR, USNR. The ceremony will feature active duty service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard escorting veterans to place wreaths on their respective service markers. A Korean War veteran and POW will place the POW/MIA wreath.

The honorable Linda T. Johnson, Mayor, City of Suffolk, will make the opening remarks. CWO4 Phillip Brashear, USA, will be the guest speaker for the ceremony. Following Brashear’s speech, Dr. David Lotz, playing the bagpipes, will lead guests from the cemetery pavilion to the burial plots where active duty volunteers will place the final 25 wreaths. The Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek Chapel Choir will sing “Blades of Grass and Pure White Stones.” The ceremony will conclude with a bugler from the Fleet Forces Command playing “TAPS,” followed by Dr. Lotz playing “Amazing Grace” on the bagpipes.

The Horton Wreath Society raised funds to purchase 3,400 live wreaths for the headstones at the Horton Veterans Cemetery. Veterans, military, and fraternal organizations, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and active duty personnel will begin laying the wreaths at 9:15 a.m.

Serving those who served.

The Albert G. Horton Wreath Society incorporates elements, which strive to remember, honor and teach our younger generation about the service and sacrifices of our nation's veterans.

The Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery is one of three state-operated veterans' cemeteries in Virginia, but is the only one of the three with an established wreath laying ceremony.

The Albert G. Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery is located at 5310 Milners Road, Suffolk, VA. The public is encouraged to attend.

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