

## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### ***Wreaths Across America observance to be held at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia December 11***

RICHMOND— Wreaths honoring each branch of the Armed Forces will be placed at the Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia on Saturday, December 11, 2010 as part of the national Wreaths Across America observance. The Wreaths Across America tradition began in 1993 when the Worcester Wreath Company donated wreaths for the headstones of fallen heroes in Arlington National Cemetery. Since then, placing wreaths on the graves of veterans has become an annual tradition.

The Wreaths Across America ceremony at will begin at noon on the 11<sup>th</sup> with a member of the Civil Air Patrol reading the Wreaths Across America tribute. The same tribute will be read simultaneously at veterans cemeteries across the U.S., linking participants in honoring the service and sacrifices of the nation's veterans. A wreath will be placed for each branch of the Armed Forces plus one for POW/MIAs.

The Civil Air Patrol partners with Wreaths Across America, a nonprofit organization, to remember, honor, and teach about the service and sacrifices of our nation's veterans. This year approximately 350 similar ceremonies will be held across the nation.

Again this year, the local National Association of Military Retirees donated 150 wreaths to the Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia. These wreaths will be placed at the cemetery front entrance, along the fence line, flag pole, office, and chapel, on Wednesday, December 8. The National Association of Military retirees started out two years ago with a donation of 60 wreaths and this year the number of wreaths increased to 150.

A private citizen, Matthew McCartney, also donated 10 wreaths.

The Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia is one of two state-operated veterans cemeteries in Virginia. A similar ceremony will be held at the Albert G. Horton, Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk.

# The Virginia Department of Veterans Services

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The Virginia Veterans Cemetery, Amelia is located at 10300 Pridesville Road, Amelia. The public is encouraged to attend.

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*Serving those who served.*