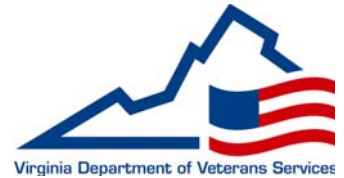


# The Virginia Department of Veterans Services



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## News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
December 7, 2010

Contact: Anne Atkins  
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### ***Wreaths to be laid on all graves at the Albert G. Horton, Jr., Memorial Veterans Cemetery; Ceremony to be held December 11***

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 11, 2010, as part of the national Wreaths Across America observance.

The Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Horton Veterans Cemetery will begin at 11:45 a.m. on Saturday, December 11. The Naval Reserve Forces Command 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 Ray Bennett. The invocation will be led by a chaplain from the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth. At noon, LtCol Dean Gould, Virginia Civil Air Patrol, will read the Wreaths Across America tribute. The same tribute will be read simultaneously at veterans’ cemeteries around the U.S., linking participants in honoring the service and sacrifices of the nation’s veterans. 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.

Frank Salvas, Sr., Director of the State Cemetery Grants Services (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs) will make the opening remarks. CDR Paul Galanti, USN, Ret., will be the guest speaker for the ceremony. Following his 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,” Dr. Lotz

*Serving those who served.*

playing “Amazing Grace” on the bagpipes, and a flyover provided by the Military Aviation Museum, weather permitting.

Jeanne Banks, along with the Tidewater Tidal WAVES, a unit of WAVES National, led a group of volunteers in raising funds to purchase nearly 2,800 wreaths for the headstones at the Horton Veterans Cemetery. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, members of the Patriot Guard Riders, and active duty personnel will begin placing wreaths on the headstones at 10 a.m., Saturday morning.

Members of the Wreath Society partner with Wreaths Across America, a nonprofit organization, to remember, honor and teach our younger generation about the service and sacrifices of our nation’s veterans. This year, approximately 350 similar ceremonies will be held across the nation. The tradition of laying wreaths began in 1992 when the Worcester Wreath Company, Worcester, ME, donated wreaths for the headstones of fallen heroes in Arlington National Cemetery. In 2006, they expanded their efforts to include veterans’ cemeteries around the country and Wreaths Across America was born.

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

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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