

Wreaths Across America Comes to Old Post Cemetery *Public Invited To Participate in Nation-Wide Program*

Plattsburgh, NY (November 7, 2011) - -As part of the national "Wreaths Across America Day" program, local members of the American Military Retirees Association, Lake Champlain Chapter, invite the public to help honor veterans buried in the Old Post Cemetery. "The Christmas They Never Had" is the theme for this year's event, to be held on Saturday December 10th at Noon at the Old Post Cemetery, located on the Old Plattsburgh AFB, Route 9, Plattsburgh.

The Old Post Cemetery, closed for new burials, is the final resting place for 136 Unknown Soldiers, 163 known veterans and many family members. Thomas Kelly, SFC, U.S. Army, a Spanish American War veteran awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, is among those buried there.

This year's event will mark the first time this cemetery has been honored as part of the Wreaths Across America program, and it is hoped that participation will be sufficient to make this an annual event for the community. Private citizens, businesses, schools, service groups, local veterans organizations and auxiliaries are invited to purchase additional wreaths for placement during the ceremony so that as many veterans graves may be honored as possible. Wreaths must be purchased online through the Wreaths Across America website, www.wreathscrossamerica.org; site visitors should search locations for New York State, and then select the Old Post Cemetery. Wreaths are \$15 each and orders must be placed by November 28th for this year's event. You need not be present or live locally to sponsor a wreath; wreaths will be placed by local veterans.

Over 400,000 wreaths are expected to be placed nationwide by over 150,000 volunteers this year as part of the program's mission to "Remember, Honor, and Teach." Specially designated wreaths for the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and POW/MIA will be placed during this year's ceremony, which will be coordinated simultaneously at over 600 participating locations.

Wreaths Across America began over 20 years ago when the Worcester Wreath Company from Harrington, Maine initiated a tradition of donating and placing wreaths on the headstones at Arlington National Cemetery. Recognition of the service and sacrifice of our veterans, and their families, is especially poignant during the traditional holiday season; thus this year's theme of "The Christmas They Never Had."

For more information, contact AMRA Chapter President Kathy Baumgarten at 570-8464 or Clinton County Veterans Service Officer Steve Bowman at 565-4720.

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Wreaths Across America (WAA) is a national non-profit organization that has grown quickly to encompass over 600 participating locations and 150,000+ volunteers around the Country. The Wreaths Across America's mission is to Remember, Honor, and Teach. Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve including their families who sacrifice, and Teach our children the cost of the freedoms we enjoy each day. WAA pursues its mission with nation-wide wreath-laying events amid the holiday season, and year-round educational outreach inviting all Americans to appreciate our freedoms and the cost at which they are delivered. To learn more about the Wreaths Across America program, please contact Karen Worcester, Executive Director of WreathsAcrossAmerica.org (877) 385-9504 or karen@wreathscrossamerica.org.