Written by Jessica McDunn
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Local Veterans Remembered During the Holidays

Wreaths Across America™ Day to honor veterans at Ames Municipal Cemetery and over 750 participating locations nationwide

AMES, Iowa (Dec. 4, 2012) – On Saturday, Dec. 15, 2012, members of the Ames community will gather together to honor veterans during the holiday season as part of the Wreaths Across America™ (WAA) Day.

Stevens Memorial Chapel, the local Dignity Memorial® provider in Ames, has volunteered to conduct the WAA ceremony this year at the Ames Municipal Cemetery, 310 East Ninth Street, on Saturday, December 15 starting at 11 a.m. Eight ceremonial wreaths will be placed to remember all soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who served, honor their sacrifices and teach younger generations about the high cost of our freedoms.

Specially designated wreaths for the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, POW/MIA and Revolutionary War veterans will be placed on memorials during a ceremony that will be coordinated simultaneously at more than 750 participating locations all across the country. Locally, this project has been spearheaded by Stevens Memorial Chapel Funeral Director Paul Smith, the son of a Korean War veteran and descendant of multiple Revolutionary War veterans.

In 2012, it is projected that more than 400,000 wreaths will be placed nationwide by over 150,000 volunteers as part of the WAA mission to Remember, Honor and Teach.

The Wreaths Across America story began more than 20 years ago when the Worcester Wreath Company from Harrington, Maine, initiated a tradition of donating and placing wreaths on the headstones of our nation's fallen heroes at Arlington National Cemetery. Recognition of

the service and sacrifice of our veterans and their families is especially poignant during the traditional holiday season.

Worcester Wreath Company continues to be a major supporter of the project, donating over 30,000 wreaths in 2011. More than 400,000 will be sponsored by individuals, businesses and community groups nationwide. Wreaths will be placed in all 50 states from Maine to Alaska and Hawaii, and at 24 national cemeteries on foreign soil.

About Wreaths Across America

Wreaths Across America is a national non-profit organization that has grown quickly to encompass over 750 participating locations and more than 150,000 volunteers around the country. The WAA's mission is to Remember, Honor and Teach. Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve including families who sacrifice and Teach our children the cost of the freedoms we enjoy each day. It is our shared belief that…

"The nation which forgets its defenders will soon be forgotten." Calvin Coolidge

WAA pursues its mission with nationwide 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.

About Stevens Memorial Chapel and the Dignity Memorial network

Stevens Memorial Chapel is a proud Dignity Memorial provider in Ames. The Dignity Memorial network of more than 1,800 funeral, cremation and cemetery service providers is North America's most trusted resource for funeral and memorialization services. Dignity Memorial providers offer an unmatched combination of products and locations serving families with care, integrity, respect and service excellence. For more information, visit www.StevensMemorialChapel.com
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