

*Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc., Bessemer Civil Air Patrol and the Support Committee  
for the Alabama National Cemetery express our sincere gratitude to the following  
dedicated volunteers:*

AARP Alabama  
Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 444  
American Legion, Department of Alabama  
American Legion Riders Department of Alabama  
American Legion Post 107/Aux/Riders  
American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555  
Alabama National Cemetery Staff  
Alabaster-Pelham Rotary Club  
Sandra & Tom Adair  
Pete Anderson  
Frank Adkins  
Bob and Nancy Barefield  
Boy Scouts of America  
Ed Burdett  
Calera Elks Club  
Cody Caldwell  
Rachel Clinkscale  
Charter Funeral Home  
Daniels Foundation Board of Trustees  
John Gaydon  
Girl Scouts of America  
Gold Star Wives of America  
Marshall Goggins  
Connie Grund  
Courtney Haden  
Ron Haygood  
Jones Valley High School Alumni  
Cherie Kosak, KSI  
LtGen Brute Krulak MCL Detachment 1415  
Montevallo Fire and Rescue  
Bobby Newsome  
Glenn Nivens  
Claudia and Ray Reach  
Patriot Guard Riders  
Rideout's Valley Chapel  
Mike Self  
Shelby County RSVP  
Shelby Women's League  
Shelby County Sheriff's Department  
Support Our Soldiers  
USS ALABAMA Crew Mates  
Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 301  
Youth Leadership Development Program  
1st Pennsylvania Regiment

## WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Alabama National Cemetery  
Montevallo, Alabama  
8th Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony  
December 17, 2016  
11:00AM



*Alabama National Cemetery 2011*

Each wreath honors all servicemen and women for their selfless sacrifice and that of their families who are without loved ones during the holidays.

## REMEMBER—HONOR—TEACH

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children’s children what it was once like in the United States where men were free.”

*—Ronald Reagan*

*40th President of the United States (1911-2004)*

*We especially want to thank all individuals and organizations for their generous donations to this year's Wreaths Across America. Many donated in honor or memory of a loved one, whose names are displayed at today's ceremony.*

*Please plan to join us next year, Saturday, December 16, 2017 at 11:00 am.*

## **Ceremonial Wreaths**

**US Army-** CSM (Retired) Barry Blount  
*Father of 2LT Matthew Blount*

**US Marine Corps-** Mrs. Charon Rivers  
*Mother of Lance Corporal Thomas Rivers, Jr.*

**US Navy-** Mr. Charles Jones  
*Grandson of Fireman 1st Class Hugh Frank Jones, Sr.*

**US Air Force-** Charley and Andrew Bourland  
*Sons of Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth Bourland*

**US Coast Guard-** Ms. Janice Hamilton  
*Widow of Seaman Recruit Bernard Agee Hamilton*

**US Merchant Marines-** Mr. Thomas McCulloch, Sr.  
*WWII Merchant Marine*

**POW/MIA-** Mr. Newton Duke  
*A Korean War POW for 27 months*



The Wreaths Across America annual ceremony grew from a tribute that began in 1992, when the Worchester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine had a surplus of holiday wreaths and donated them to Arlington National Cemetery to be placed in one of the older sections of the cemetery.

That annual tribute went on quietly until 2005, when a photo of the headstones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths covered with snow, received national attention. In 2006, with the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath laying ceremonies were held at over 300 locations around the country.

The US Congress unanimously voted that December 13, 2008 would be “Wreaths Across America Day” and wreath laying ceremonies were held in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries.

The Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc. (BSSFI) was founded in Alabama December 15, 2005 to honor at various statewide events those who have served, those who are serving and those who have fallen. Once again in 2016, BSSFI proudly accepted the distinction of assisting the Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery as program planner for Wreaths Across America at the Alabama National Cemetery.

Wreaths Across America is committed to remembering the fallen, to honoring those who are serving in uniform today and teaching younger generations about the value of their freedoms and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms.

## **Master of Ceremonies**

Mrs. Carla Ellis-McGann  
*Past President Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc.  
Support Committee for Alabama National Cemetery*

## **Invocation**

Mr. Duke Martin  
*1st Vice Chair, Support Committee Alabama National Cemetery*

## **Presentation of Colors**

Bessemer Civil Air Patrol Color Guard

## **National Anthem**

Mrs. Lela Brown

## **Pledge Of Allegiance**

Ms. Hayley Barber  
*Miss Alabama 2016*

## **Ceremonial Wreath Laying**

*Escorting Wreath Layers are the Bessemer Civil Air Patrol Cadets*

## **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

Mrs. Carla Ellis-McGann

## **Keynote Speaker**

Chaplain MG Doug Carver (USA, Ret.)  
*Former Chief of Chaplains, US Army*

## **Rifle Salute**

St. Clair County Combined Honor Guard

## **Taps**

Mr. Gene Ramsay and Mr. Jim Quakenbush  
*Bugles Across America-Alabama*

## **Cemetery Wreath Laying**

*Led by bag piper Mr. Jeff Jones playing Amazing Grace; followed by family members with loved ones buried in Alabama National Cemetery.  
Mr. George Graham, 1st Pennsylvania Regimental Drummer will lead volunteers to lay the remaining wreaths.*