

*The Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery and the Bessemer Civil Air Patrol  
wish to express our sincere gratitude to the following dedicated volunteers:*

AARP Alabama  
American Legion, Department of Alabama  
American Legion Riders Department of Alabama  
American Legion Matthew Blount Post 555  
American Village-Citizen Trust  
Alabama National Cemetery Staff  
Sandra & Tom Adair  
Pete Anderson  
Frank Adkins  
Bob and Nancy Barefield  
Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc.  
Boy Scouts of America  
Don Brooks  
Ed Burdett  
Cody Caldwell  
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Daniels Foundation Board of Trustees  
John Gaydon  
Girl Scouts of America  
Gold Star Wives of America  
Marshall Goggins  
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Cherie Kosak, KSI  
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Bobby Newsome  
Glenn Nivens  
Patriot Guard Riders  
Rideout's Valley Chapel  
Mike Self  
Shelby County RSVP  
Shelby County Sheriff's Department  
Support Our Soldiers  
USS ALABAMA Crew Mates  
Youth Leadership Development Program  
1st Pennsylvania Regiment

## **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA**

Alabama National Cemetery  
Montevallo, Alabama  
9th Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony  
December 16, 2017  
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 15, 2018 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-** Ms. Kellie Bourland  
*Sister 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 Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery and Bessemer CAP want to acknowledge the Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc. for continuing to lead the sponsorship of wreaths at Alabama National Cemetery to ensure our Veterans have live Balsam Wreaths placed on their gravesites.

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**

Mr. Johnny Curry  
*Parliamentarian and Historian*  
*Support Committee for Alabama National Cemetery*

## **Invocation**

Mr. Duke Martin  
*2nd Vice Chair, Support Committee Alabama National Cemetery*

## **Presentation of Colors**

Bessemer Civil Air Patrol Color Guard

## **National Anthem**

Mrs. Lela Brown

## **Pledge Of Allegiance**

Bessemer Civil Air Patrol Cadet

## **Ceremonial Wreath Laying**

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

## **Introduction of Keynote Speaker**

Mr. Johnny Curry

## **Keynote Speaker**

U.S. Congressman Gary Palmer  
*Alabama's 6th Congressional District*

## **Special Musical Tribute**

Mr. Rob Robinson

## **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.*