

*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	Dixie Division
American Legion	Military Vehicles Club
Department of Alabama	John Gaydon
American Legion Riders	Girl Scouts of America
Department of Alabama	Gold Star Wives of America
American Legion Riders Post 137	Marshall Goggins
American Legion	The Hall Family, Camden, ME
Matthew Blount Post 555	David Hamilton
Alabama Society Daughters of the American Revolution	Ron Haygood
Alabama Society Sons of the American Revolution	Jones Valley High School Alumni
American Village-Citizen Trust	Kosak Services, Inc.
Alabama National Cemetery Staff	The Lovoy Family, Newport Beach, CA
Sandra & Tom Adair	Montevallo Fire and Rescue
Alabama Power	Bobby Newsome
Pete Anderson	Glenn Nivens
Frank Adkins	Patriot Guard Riders
American Heritage	Pelham High School Athletics Department
Girls Troop AL 1989	People to People International
AT&T Employees of the 50 Forward Professionals ERG	Rideout's Valley Chapel
Bob and Nancy Barefield	Mike Self
Birmingham	Shelby County RSVP
50 Forward Professionals ERG	Shelby County Sheriff's Department
Blue Star Salute Foundation, Inc.	Shelby Women's League
Boy Scouts of America	Support Our Soldiers
Don Brooks	Tuscaloosa Civil Air Patrol
Ed Burdett	USS ALABAMA Crew Mates
Cody Caldwell	Margaret L White
Chic Cecchini	Youth Leadership Development Program
Charter Funeral Home	1st Pennsylvania Regiment
The Daniel Foundation of Alabama	

*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.*

It is the mission of The Support Committee for the Alabama National Cemetery to honor our American military veterans who are interred at the Alabama National Cemetery by giving comfort to their families, promoting the cemetery to others, developing and participating in commemorative cemetery programs and providing financial support to the cemetery to further enhance its beauty, maintenance and expansion.

*Please plan to join us next year, Saturday, December 15, 2018 at 11:00 am.*

## 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)*

## **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 the ALNC*

## **Invocation**

Mr. Duke Martin  
*2nd Vice Chair, Support Committee for the ALNC*

## **Presentation of Colors**

Bessemer Civil Air Patrol Color Guard

## **National Anthem**

Mrs. Lela Brown

## **Pledge Of Allegiance**

Cadet 2nd Lt. Hunter C. Farley

## **Ceremonial Wreath Laying**

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

## **Musical Selection**

Ms. Jessica Procter  
*Miss Alabama 2017*

## **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.*