



Wreaths honoring veterans are placed in Francis Marion Park.

## Wreaths Across America arrives in Georgetown County

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Flags flickered in the morning breeze as the color guard from the Knights of Columbus Assembly 3272 came to attention and posted the colors at Francis Marion Park in Georgetown.

The iron gray sky was low over the harbor town that has sent sons off to war since the Revolution.

Georgetown, of course, is not alone in its contributions to the nation's security, and it was not alone on Saturday in recognizing their sacrifice.

Veterans placed seven wreaths at the park's military service memorial during the ceremony as part of the national Wreaths Across America ceremony to honor men and women who gave their lives in defense of the nation.

"Today," said Col. Ron Gilbert, master of ceremonies, "we will lay wreaths

lington National Cemetery.

On Saturday, wreaths were placed at 750 locations in 50 states and international cemeteries to remember the fallen and honor those who served.

Participating were Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6444, American Legion Post 114 and Knights of Columbus Assembly 3272.

Dillon Moore led the singing of the National Anthem and Tyler Eling played "Taps." The Knights of Columbus posted and retired the colors.

The ceremony began with a moment of recognition for the children and adults slain at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn. "We ought to offer our prayers," Gilbert said. "As we go home today, hug your children."

Representatives placed a wreath for each branch of the military along with

- Navy, Capt. Dean Brown;

- Air Force, Maj. Gen. Gerald E. Harmon;

- Coast Guard, Petty Officer Daniel Warren and Petty Officer Tyler Underwood;

- Merchant Marine, D.C. "Mitch" Mitchum Jr.;

- POW/MIA: Maj. Samuel R. Vaughn and his wife, Gale.

Paige Sawyer, a member of the Georgetown City Council, asked those in attendance to remember the 1 percent of Americans who put on a uniform every day and defend the country. "We enjoy freedom of assembly and freedom of speech," Sawyer said. "Many think they are entitled to freedom and any other free goodies that come their way."

Sawyer said war has robbed millions of their lives and inflicted harm on the survivors. America lost 26 service members





Photos by Tanya Ackerman/Coastal Observer