

PRESS RELEASE      For more information contact:

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## **VETERANS REMEMBERED DURING THE HOLIDAYS**

Wreaths Across America Day to Honor Veterans at Veterans Memorial in Francis Marion Park and over 750 Participating Locations Nationwide.

### *For Immediate Release*

(Georgetown, SC – December 2) - Members of the Georgetown community will gather together at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 14, 2013 at the Veterans Memorial in Francis Marion Park to honor veterans during the holiday season as part of the annual Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day.

American Legion Post 114, VFW SC Post 6444 and Knights of Columbus Assembly 3272 will conduct the WAA ceremony. During this event, seven ceremonial wreaths will be placed to remember veterans who served; honor their sacrifices; and teach our younger generations about the high cost of our freedoms.

The specially designated wreaths for the Army, Marines, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and POW/MIA will be placed during a ceremony that will be coordinated at over 750 participating locations across the country.

Overall, more than 150,000 volunteers will place 400,000 wreaths in all 50 states and at 24 national cemeteries on foreign soil in 2013 as part of the mission of Wreaths Across America to Remember, Honor, and Teach.

The Wreaths Across America story began over 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.

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***Wreaths Across America*** is a national non-profit organization that has grown quickly to encompass over 750 participating locations and 150,000 volunteers around the country. Its mission is to Remember, Honor, and Teach. Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve including their families who sacrifice, and Teach our children the cost of the freedoms we enjoy each day. WAA pursues its mission with nation-wide wreath-laying events during the holiday season, and year-round educational outreach inviting all Americans to appreciate our freedoms and the cost at which they are delivered.

***The VFW*** traces its roots back to 1899 when veterans of the Spanish-American War and the Philippine Insurrection founded local organizations to secure rights and benefits for

*their service. Annually, the 2.1 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary contribute more than 11 million hours of volunteerism as it advocates on behalf of all veterans, the military, and local communities.*

***The American Legion*** is the nation's largest organization of wartime veterans with 2.4 million members. Chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, and community service organization, it maintains an ongoing commitment to disabled veterans and their families.

***The Knights of Columbus***, with more than 1.8 million members, is the world's largest Catholic lay organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, the community, families, and young people. Knights of Columbus members last year set records by providing more than 70 million hours of charitable service and more than \$158 million in donations to charitable causes. During the past decade, the K of C has donated more than \$1.4 billion to charity, and provided nearly 653 million hours of volunteer service in support of charitable initiatives.