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## **At Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery: Wreaths Across America Ceremony on Saturday, Dec 17**

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Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery Wreaths Across America Ceremony Set for noon on Dec. 17

The public is encouraged to attend the Wreaths Across America dedication ceremony to be held at noon on Saturday, Dec. 17, at Darien's Spring Grove Veterans' Cemetery. According to local tallies, there are 2,160 veterans buried in the Darien cemetery, one of three designated official veterans' cemeteries in Connecticut. (The other two are in Middletown and Rocky Hill.)

Local fund-raisers have collected 1,273 wreath sponsorships for Darien's Spring Grove Cemetery this year.

Darien's wreath laying ceremony is conducted simultaneously with the wreath ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia on Dec. 17.

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Many interested local residents are needed to help with the wreath placement this year. People are asked to arrive at Spring Grove Veterans' Cemetery by 11:30 AM to prepare for the noon ceremony.

Those attending early will be able to enjoy some seasonal music by the Coastal Chordsmen a men's a cappella chorus, who will also sing the National Anthem. The Darien VFW Post #6933 bugler, Anthony Montimurro will play Taps.

In 2016, Wreaths Across America marks the 25th anniversary of the Worcester Wreath Company donating wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery.

This year, members of Darien's Monuments and Ceremonies Commission partnered with several Darien civic groups including Good Wife's River DAR Chapter, the Masonic Club of Darien, the Darien VFW, the DHS Support Our Soldiers, and Scout Troops. Many Darien businesses and local citizens have also generously donated.

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992.

The organization's patriotic mission is to: Remember the fallen, Honor those who serve and their families and to Teach our children the value of freedom. Each year in December, WAA coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as at hundreds of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.