

Ceremonial Wreaths

US Army- Linda Bailey

Widow of Vietnam Veteran Terry Bailey

US Marine Corps- Laura Abigail Ward

Sister of Cpl Anthony Clay Ward

US Navy- David Phelps

Son of Fran Phelps, WWII WAVE

US Air Force- Taylor DiCicco

Sister of SSgt Sean M. DiCicco

US Coast Guard- Charles Estock

Father of Benjamin Martin Estock

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

Ms. Janice Rogers

News Anchor, WBRC Fox 6 & sister of James Alvin Rogers, US Marines, Vietnam Veteran

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

Civil Air Patrol Cadet

Ceremonial Wreath Laying

Escorting Wreath Layers are the Bessemer Civil Air Patrol Cadets

Introduction of Keynote Speaker

Ms. Janice Rogers

Keynote Speaker

Rear Admiral W. Kent Davis

US Navy, Retired, Commissioner, Alabama Department of Veterans Affairs

Special Musical Tribute

Mrs. Lela Brown

Bicentennial Bells Across Alabama

Susan Moore

Central Director, DAR and Support Committee Member

Rifle Salute

Ceremonial Guard

American Legion Post 9

Taps

Mr. Gene Ramsey

Bugles Across America-Alabama

Cemetery Wreath Laying

Led by bag piper Ms. Kathleen Ryan playing Amazing Grace; followed by family members with loved ones buried in Alabama National Cemetery.