



# WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA | FACT SHEET

## About Civil Air Patrol

- More than 66,000 members nationwide.
- Celebrates its 78th anniversary Dec. 1, 2019.
- Three primary missions – aerospace education, cadet programs and emergency services.
- Performs 90 percent of continental U.S. inland search and rescue missions, as tasked by the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center, saving an average of 82 lives per year.
- Also performs aerial reconnaissance for homeland security and disaster relief missions for local, state and national organizations.
- Operates one of the largest fleets of single-engine piston aircraft in the world, with 560 currently in the fleet.
- Flies, through volunteer members, approximately 100,000 hours each year.
- Maintains fleet of 1,000-plus emergency service vehicles for training and mission support.
- Mentors over 28,000 cadets ages 12-20 in four areas: leadership, aerospace, fitness and character development.
- Cadet activities include an active role in emergency services missions, orientation flights in powered and glider aircraft, flight training scholarships and career explorations, as well as activities and competition for cadets at local, state, regional and national levels.

## About Wreaths Across America

Civil Air Patrol is a Wreaths Across America partner. The nonprofit organization's mission is to Remember, Honor and Teach about the service and sacrifices of the nation's veterans.

Founded in 2007, Wreaths Across America is an offshoot of the Arlington National Cemetery wreath project, which was started in 1992 with the annual placement of wreaths donated by Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine.

Wreaths designated for Arlington are transported on a 750-mile journey from Columbia Falls, Maine, after a sendoff ceremony. The route is known as the world's largest veterans' parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities along the way to remind people how important it is to Remember, Honor and Teach.

## Last year's observances

More than 1.5 million veterans' wreaths were sponsored by the public for placement on veterans' graves at 1,433 ceremonies in all 50 states and abroad.

Civil Air Patrol's sponsorship of wreaths over the past 11 years has raised \$1.1 million for participating CAP units.

Civil Air Patrol's Arlington observances annually include a wreath-laying ceremony at the CAP Memorial, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the Women in Military Service Memorial.

Each year Civil Air Patrol's National Honor Guard takes part in a special ceremonial holiday wreath-laying at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. Similar ceremonies were held at state capitols nationwide.