

## PRESS RELEASE – COMMUNITY SERVICE

December 1, 2013

Thousands of wreaths with a big red bow will soon cover our country's fallen veteran's graves at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls Minnesota.

As the sun rises on Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> there will be several semi trucks loaded with wreaths to be placed on the veteran's graves in a few hours. Dozens of volunteers will be on hand to unload and stage the wreaths in the various sections at the cemetery. Preparations will be underway to prepare hot beverages and refreshments for the many people that will arrive shortly to assist in the ceremony and wreath laying.

Shortly after 12 noon the task will be complete. A sea of fresh Balsam wreaths with a big red bow will cover all the veterans' graves.

“The task of providing the several thousand wreaths gets larger each year as there are between 3 and 400 interments there each year” said John Thomas, President of WreathsForTheFallen.org the organization that has assumed the primary responsibility for executing this monumental task.

“One of the questions we receive is where do the wreaths come from? As far north as Shelvin down to Big Lake Minnesota there are people harvesting the balsam bows and making the wreaths.”

“The last few years we have made it possible for families to request a specific wreath to honor a family's loved one at the cemetery. Upon providing us with the veterans name and date of birth, we look up the exact location in the Nationwide Gravesite Locator. A specific procedure has been developed to insure the named veteran will receive a wreath in honor of their family. To the best of my knowledge we are the only organization in the country that is providing this service for the fallen veterans families and friends.” said Thomas.

Everyone is invited to the ceremony and wreath placement on Saturday, December 14th. It is suggested to arrive before 10 am to get parked and warm up inside before the ceremony starts at 11 am sharp. Wreath placement begins at about 11:20 am.

For those that would like to make a general donation to this worthy cause, please feel free to contribute to the wreath general fund. Information is on the [www.WreathsForTheFallen.org](http://www.WreathsForTheFallen.org) web site. Everyone is invited to participate in the wreath laying ceremony.

For additional information, contact: John Thomas at 218-829-6622 or go to [www.WreathsForTheFallen.org](http://www.WreathsForTheFallen.org) a tax exempt 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.