



December 23, 2014

To all our supporters we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The results of our December 13th National Remembrance Ceremony at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery are in.

All the 3,800 wreaths we needed arrived on time at 7:30 am despite a very foggy morning. Also arriving in the early morning hours were the volunteers that would be assisting with the many duties needed to prepare for our annual mission and event. Shortly after 8 am the proper quantity of wreaths were staged at each section of the cemetery. At the same time setup of the information table and refreshments was underway. By 8:30 the parking crews arrived and shortly after the cars started to arrive. They were able to park the almost 500 cars with families that came to attend the ceremony and placing the honor wreaths on our nation's fallen veterans. Our thanks go out to all the volunteers that assisted with the parking duties. An excellent example of team work in action!

We have received many pictures along with a video that Lakeland Public TV did for the news regarding the event. You can see them all on our web site www.WreathsForTheFallen.org. Just go to the Photo & Video Gallery and look under "Photo Gallery" and the "Event Video Gallery".

To say the event was a success is an understatement.

From the several honor guards from the American Legion Post 46, VFW Post 9073, Saint Cloud and Brainerd Civil Air Patrol, along with our nations "National Anthem" so eloquently performed by retired Sgt 1st Class Robin Major who came all the way from New Richmond, WI, then a very informative narration by our vice president Norville Pervier, followed by representatives of

our 7 armed forces placing honor wreaths for each branch of service. The ceremony cumulated with a 3-Volley salute and Taps performed by the Cemetery Memorial Rifle Squad, American Legion Post 217 from Paynesville.

At 11:20 the ceremony concluded and everyone departed to the section of choice to begin the placement of the 3,800 wreaths honoring our nation's fallen veterans and in many cases their family members as well. At 12 noon, in only 40 minutes you could look out to the many sections and see a wreath on every grave. An amazing accomplishment from everyone that attended our annual event!

All in all we had several hundred people assisting with the planning and execution of the ceremony and wreath placement that December 13th foggy morning at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls

On behalf of our board of officers and dedicated volunteers I thank each and everyone for their dedication and service.

Sincerely,

John Thomas

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