

February 1, 2014

PRESS RELEASE – “Where did they go?”

At 11 AM on Saturday morning February 1st all the headstones at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls Minnesota were covered with bright green Balsam wreaths and a big red bow.

At 11:50 AM they were gone. In a blink of an eye as someone remarked.

A sizeable endeavor to remove over 3500 wreaths in itself but in only 35 minutes? Again due to the remarkable turnout of all the WreathsForTheFallen.org volunteers, The Minnesota Patriot Guard members, plus the many families that came to assist in the wreath removal a days work was reduced to only 35 minutes. After a short briefing at 11 AM everyone went to work to remove the wreaths as mandated by the cemetery rules that all Christmas decorations be removed at this time. In the time it would take you to walk around the parameter of the cemetery all the wreaths were gently picked up and placed on large trailers that were pre-positioned in various locations.

At the conclusion of the wreath removal the Little Falls American Legion Post 46 conducted a flag disposal ceremony. Many American flags due for retirement were brought to the cemetery and included in the disposal ceremony. Many thanks go out to the American Legion for providing this most worthy service.

A fellowship and a Patriot Guard “Meet & Greet” followed at the Canteen (*by Camp Ripley*) where many of the volunteers got a chance to meet others dedicated to honoring our countries fallen veterans and their families.

“Again last December we were able to provide enough wreaths to cover the entire cemetery” said John Thomas, President of WreathsForTheFallen.org. “It all started in 2006 with 5 wreaths and now has grown to this magnitude. The general donations and requests for wreaths for the graves at the cemetery this year have exceeded all our expectations. The many people that joined WreathsForTheFallen.org in this effort and committed to working on this project all year deserve the credit. It could not have been done without them,” said Thomas.

Plans have already begun for this coming December wreath laying.

WreathsForTheFallen.org is a 501(c)(3) non profit organization that is dedicated to providing wreaths at the Minnesota State Veterans Cemetery in Little Falls, Minnesota

To have your personal wreath hand made, and included in the next memorable event; send you’re Name, Address, and Phone number (*in case of questions*) and \$15.00 or more (*for each wreath requested*) to: 5244 Ashdale Ln – Baxter – MN – 56425. Also include the full name and DOB of the veteran or family member the wreath is for. WreathsForTheFallen.org will confirm the exact location of the grave site number. Please make your check out to “Wreaths”. All contributions are IRS tax deductible.

For those that would like to make a general donation to this worthy cause, please feel free to contribute to the wreath general fund and an appropriate number of wreaths will be made and distributed at the December event. Everyone is invited to participate in the wreath laying ceremony.

For additional information, contact: John Thomas at 218-829-6622, E-Mail Office@WreathsForTheFallen.org or visit www.WreathsForTheFallen.org a certified 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization.