## Make a difference

In anticipation of the opening of the Omaha National Cemetery in September 2016, we are raising funds for our first annual Wreaths Across America ceremony to be held on December 17, 2016.

Our goal is to have a wreath on every gravesite – every year. With an estimated burial rate of 500 per year, we need your support to make this project a success.

Please consider a financial contribution to the Omaha Wreath Project.

Each wreath costs \$15.00. The delivery from Maine is made by volunteers supported by a number of firms donating their trucks and fuel for the trip.

Contributions may be made to:

Wreaths Across America Attn: Mary Blodgett 21768 Poppleton Ave Elkhorn NE 68022

Please make checks payable to:

Wreaths Across America
Please enter NEOVCO in the memo line
(NEOVCO = Nebraska, Omaha Veterans Cemetery,
Omaha)

## To Donate Online, visit:

http://waa.convio.net/site/TR/NationalWreathsAcrossAmericaDay/General?fr\_id=6467&pg=entry

Volunteer Location Coordinator: Mary Blodgett E-mail: mary.blodgett@firstdata.com

## From Arlington to Omaha

Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, was formed as an extension of the Arlington Wreath Project. The Arlington Wreath program was started by Morrill Worcester, the owner of Worcester Wreath Company in Maine. In 1992 he donated 5,000 Christmas wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery. This became an annual journey for Mr. Worcester.

It was a relatively obscure project until 2005 when a photo of the headstones, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. The project received national attention.

Thousands of requests poured in from people all over the country wanting to emulate the Arlington project at their national and state cemeteries.

This spurred the creation of Wreaths Across America. Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Mr. Worcester conceived the idea of sending seven wreaths (one for each branch of the military and one in memory of POW/MIAs) to each cemetery. In 2006, over 150 locations held simultaneous wreath layings.

The project continues to grow as community members support the project at local military cemeteries from coast to coast.

The Omaha National Cemetery is a final resting place for the men and women who have dedicated themselves to preserving the freedom of the United States of America.

The new cemetery is situated on 236 acres in Sarpy County, Nebraska. It is a place of quiet solitude deserving only to those who have served this great country. It is a place where family, friends and comrades can come to reflect and remember our heroes. It will serve the burial needs of more than 112,000 veterans in the cemetery's service area for the next 100 years.



