



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154, Inc.

Rathdrum Idaho Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue #11

November 2024

Email: rathdrum154@gmail.com

Website: Rathdrumpost154.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RathdrumAmericanLegion>

Mailing Address: PO Box 1116, Rathdrum ID

Meeting at: Lions Club 16114 N. Meyer Rd Rathdrum - Editor: Jean Bledsoe



Manuel Schneidmiller Post 154 Mission Statement

The American Legion Post 154 is a patriotic veterans organization devoted to mutual helpfulness to support Veterans and the Community at large. We are committed to mentoring and sponsorship of youth programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow service members, veterans, and their families in our communities. Our success depends entirely on active membership, participation and volunteerism. This organization belongs to the people it serves and the community in which it thrives.

Commander's Comments:

Veterans Day falls on November 11th each year and is set aside to celebrate all veterans, deceased or living. It was originally named Armistice Day as this is the day that WWI ended in 1918, but President Dwight D Eisenhower officially switched the name to Veterans Day in 1954.

What sets veterans apart is that all veterans have taken an Oath of Enlistment. WWII and Korean War veterans' oath was slightly different from the following.

OATH OF ENLISTMENT

I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to regulations and the Uniform Code of Military Justice. So help me God. (Title 10, US Code; Act of 5 May 1960 replacing the wording first adopted in 1789, with amendment effective 5 October 1962)

Or for those sworn into the National Guard:

"I, _____, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and of the State of _____ against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to them; and that I will obey the orders of the President of the United States and the Governor of _____ and the orders of the officers appointed over me, according to law and regulations. So help me God."

Many schools have Veterans Day programs and love to have veterans attend. It's a highlight for me to attend one or more of these programs each year. Please consider going to one of the elementary, middle school or high school programs. Each one is at a different time or day so please give them a call and plan to attend at least one.

I hope each of you are able to gather with family and/or friends this Thanksgiving. There are those that aren't as fortunate so please consider donating to one of our local organizations helping veterans and their families. Also, remember those currently serving in the military that are deployed and can't be with family and friends on Thanksgiving.

There is no Post Membership Meeting in November and December due to the holidays. Have a great month! - Bryan Bledsoe, Post 154 Commander



2025, 2026, & 2027 THREE YEAR RENEWALS

July 1st began the early membership renewal period for 2025. Dues have increased to \$50.00 per year beginning with the 2025 year.

You may still receive the three years offer for 2025, 2026, and 2027 at the rate of \$150.00. There are no savings on this, but you should not receive any renewal notices from National until July of 2027 for 2028. This will remain in effect until the National or Department decides to increase dues again. The three-year renewal can only be completed online, at legion.org/renew, as we cannot do this through the Post.

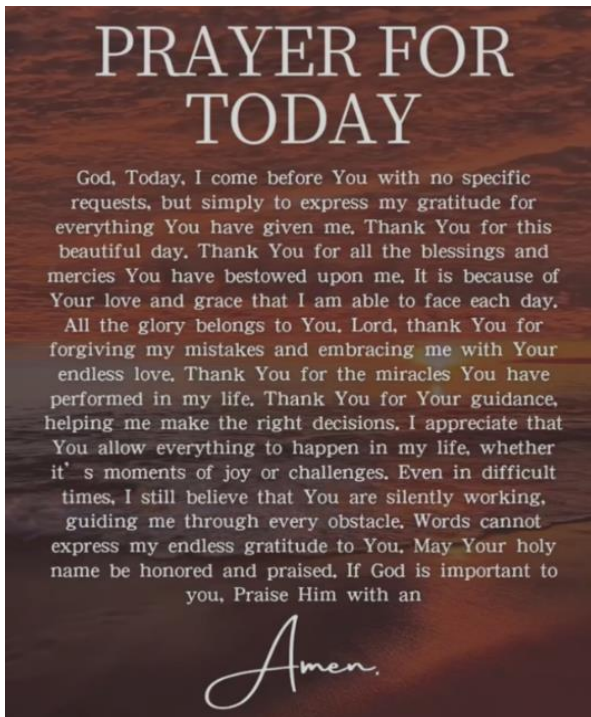
All dues need to be paid by December 31st, in order to remain on active status. Call or email me if you have any questions regarding this. - Bill Kinder Post 154, Membership Chairman

208.661.6850

wakinder74@gmail.com

Fun Fact: November 1, 1800 – John Adams became the first President to live in the White House.

Chaplain's Pew:



Sick Call & Taps:

Please send prayers and loving thoughts to Sharron and John McPhail and their family as Sharron battles overwhelming cancer.



Happenings at Newby-ginnings

Newby-ginnings provides basic necessities and essential household items, referrals and resources to active military, veterans, and Gold Star families at absolutely no cost. On October 15th we celebrated our 11th anniversary and continue to be loyal to our mission for our clients. As of October 30th, we had enrolled 6524 clients in our program. Many of these people are food insecure and depend on what we provide in our food pantry. Many were homeless and come to us to fill their needs when they find housing. These needs cannot be met without donations, both material and monetary, and volunteers. Can you help? We desperately need volunteers. If you can spare even a few hours a month to help process donations or meet and greet clients and help check them out, that would be a great service. We will provide you with a mentor. If your time is too limited, donations of clean and gently used, or new items would be gladly accepted. Here is a list of much needed items:

- towels & sheets of all sizes • coffee makers • mixers • toasters & toaster ovens
- slow cookers • pots and pans • dishes • bakeware • blankets • coats & sweaters • boots
- non-perishable foods especially protein such as canned stew, meats, & soups

Think about what you would need/want if you were in the position of many of our veterans. You can also make a financial donation and specify that it go to the food pantry, the Veterans' Relief Fund, which allows us to help with rent and other bills, or just into the general fund. Everything is tax deductible and very much appreciated.

If you've never been to Newby, come and get a tour. We've just expanded our food pantry and are looking for a much larger building as we're bursting at the seams! To learn more about Newby-ginnings, go [HERE](#). – Jean Bledsoe, Newsletter Editor and Newby Volunteer.

Service Officer:

Happy November fellow veterans. Are you ready for a COLA? The official 2025 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) will be 2.5%. The 2025 VA disability compensation rates will be effective on December 1, 2024, and will be reflected in your disability payments starting January 1, 2025.

In other tidbits:

** If you are interested in a tour at the Post Falls Veterans Home, please call for an appointment. A staff member will be happy to show you all the bells and whistles! Call 208-415-3430.

** It's never too early for us military veteran folk to plan and mark our calendars for events. The 2025 North Idaho Veterans StandDown is set for Saturday, May 17th at the Fairgrounds.

** Legionnaire benefits and insurance. They offer up to \$5000.00 coverage at no cost. Visit www.TheLIT.com for more information. - Ruth Aresvik, 1st Vice Commander, Service Officer

Below are a number of links to help you find VA information (don't miss the ones at the bottom of the page).

Enroll in VA health care.

- **Apply online:** VA.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction
- **Apply over the phone:** Call VA toll-free at **1-800-MyVA411** (1-800-698-2411), Option 2.
- **Apply in-person:** Visit your nearest VA medical center (<https://www.VA.gov/find-locations>).

Submit a VA disability compensation \$\$\$ claim.

- [Schedule a virtual or in-person appointment with a VA benefits specialist.](#)
- [Submit your VA disability claim online.](#)
- [Get help from a VA accredited representative or Veteran Service Organization.](#)

VA is here for you.



1-800-MyVA411 (1-800-698-2411) is always the right number

[Veterans Crisis Line: 988](#) and press 1, [Chat](#), or Text 838255

[Vet Centers: 1-877-927-8387](#)

[Homeless Veteran Resources: 1-877-424-3838](#) or [Chat](#)


 Health Care

 Careers and Employment  Life Insurance

 Disability

 Pension

 Burials and Memorials

 Education and Training

 Housing Assistance

 Records

Fun Fact: Fun Fact: November 2, 1936 – The world's first public television service launched in Britain as the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Training Officer:

How important is training and learning? Think about this story.

Back when logging was done only by swinging an axe, there was a young man who wanted to be a lumberjack. Finding a logging camp, he explained to the foreman that he had no logging experience but was a hard worker and eager to learn.

Recognizing enthusiasm when he saw it, the foreman agreed to give the young man a chance. Before he would hire him, though, the foreman told the young man that he first needed to display his skill by felling 15 trees every day for the next five days, and then handed him an axe.

On the first day he brought down 21 trees. The young man proudly thought himself a natural if he was capable of bringing down over 20 trees in one day when the goal was only 15. The next day he brought down 16 trees. Undaunted, the young man remained enthused, however, as the next three days went on, he brought down 10 trees, then six, and on the final day, only three trees. On that last day, the young man trudged up to the foreman saying, "I reckon you don't want to hire me now. I just don't understand – I had the right tool and thought I had the skill because at first it just didn't seem to be a problem, and even though I thought I was working just as hard each and every day, as the week went on, I brought down fewer and fewer trees."

Putting his arm around the young man's shoulders, the experienced foreman assured him, "You do have the skills, son, I recognized that right off. But what I also saw is that you didn't take the time and effort necessary to sharpen your axe. If you'll just stop regularly to sharpen your axe, you'll be successful!"

So, what's the morale of the story? We shouldn't become so busy that we overlook the benefit and importance for keeping sharp by seeking and engaging in ongoing training and learning – it is what helps individuals, programs and organizations achieve continual progress and growth. Any carpenter will tell you that using sharp tools is efficient and satisfying, while dull tools cause laborious, wasted effort. It is no different with learning and leadership. As a good example, each year hundreds of Legion Family members are dedicated to coming together at the annual National Americanism and Children & Youth conferences to hone their youth program expertise by learning with, and from, each other through formal training, informational presentations, sharing best practices and lessons learned, and the synergy of brainstorming. Whether it is in the role of conducting a youth program, being a post leader, membership recruiting, or just wanting to know more about how The American Legion works, no matter what it is, remember to take the time, opportunity and enjoyment for keeping a "sharp axe".

If you would like to learn more about American Legion training, please contact me anytime.

Dee Sasse, Training Officer

Post 154 Honor Guard:

Our Honor Guard is very active. They march in parades, present the colors at ceremonies, and most importantly, provide a rifle salute to honor Veterans at their funerals. However, more members are always needed to serve in this capacity. If you are interested in participating in this very fulfilling activity, contact Todd Halvorson at keltod11@gmail.com or by phone at 509-953-0885.

Honor Guard statistics for September: 5 ceremonies, 4 funerals and 1 function for 9/11 Remembrance program. These required 30 personnel, 117 volunteer hours and 711 miles traveled. – Todd Halvorson, Honor Guard Co-Captain

Fun Fact: November 8, 1895 – X-Rays were discovered by German physicist Wilhelm Röntgen.

Bits & Pieces

- **Veterans Day ceremonies** in Rathdrum: John Brown Elementary 9:30 a.m.; Betty Kiefer Elementary 1:30 p.m.; Garwood Elementary 1:30 p.m.; and Veteran's Day Breakfast from 8am to 11am Mountain View Alternative High. Please pick out at least one to attend and wear something identifying you as a vet. You can't imagine how happy it makes the kids to see vets at their program and how proud these programs make the veterans who attend.
- **Grouper** is proud to be a recent partner of The American Legion. Grouper provides benefits to Legionnaires aged 65 and older for staying active in their communities and these benefits include reimbursement of American Legion dues. The website hellogrouper.com has some fact sheets.
- **Post #143** is having a free Thanksgiving dinner on 11/23 at 3pm in the post dining room.
- **Seats are still available** for NIC's Dental Hygiene clinic on November 8th from 9am -2pm. Call 208-929-4002 to reserve your place and get some free dental care.
- **Vietnam Veteran Reconnects** with His Radio Operator After 44 Years
Read how Army Veteran James Volkmar reconnected with his radio operator 44 years after they were both medevac'd from the battlefield in Vietnam.
[FIND AND RECONNECT WITH YOUR OWN SERVICE BUDDIES](#)
- **At last**, Kootenai County Veterans Court is up and running; however, there is plenty of work to be done to make it 100% functional. There is a new Veterans Court Coordinator. Buddy Winters is an employee of the court system, and a Navy Veteran. He is looking for a community volunteer to lead the Veterans Court Volunteer Mentorship Program. This person will build a mentorship team to help the Vet's stay on task with court orders. The Mentorship Coordinator should be a Veteran, and the court prefers someone with a law enforcement background as well.
Any interested parties for the Veterans Court Volunteer Mentorship Program Coordinator and to be a Mentor, please contact Buddy Winters
Work: 208 446-1099, wwinters@kootenai.idcourts.net
- **The VA** began rolling out VA-Uber Health Connect nationwide in 2024, leveraging the popular rideshare service to fill transportation gaps for veterans. The rollout follows a two-year pilot program that tested and adapted the rideshare service for veterans' medical appointments at VA facilities in several states. [Read More...](#)
- **Ask the VA Secretary a Question**
VA Secretary Denis McDonough is hosting a virtual townhall in November. Ask your question today through November 6th. [SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION](#)
- **Don't Let the Grinch** Steal Your Personal or Financial Info. Online shopping season is a prime time for fraudsters and scammers to tap into your increased online activity and steal your data. Don't be a victim of cyber thieves. [GET TIPS TO AVOID THE SCAMS](#)
- **Also, please remember** to send your volunteer hours to Lonnie Morse so he can compile them. These include hours devoted to Veterans, Youth, Honor Guard and Community. His email address is: lionlonnie@gmail.com or you can just hand them to him at a meeting.

Fun Fact: November 10, 1775 – U.S. Marine Corp was established.



Did you know...?

You can...

Get 24/7 Virtual Care from VA

If you're a Veteran enrolled in VA health care, you now have access to VA tele-emergency care — should you need it — through [VA HEALTH CONNECT](#).

[ACCESS THE CARE YOU NEED](#)

New Post 154 Members

Larry Bonesio - US Navy

Stanley Kaminski – US Marine Corp

David Steinbach – US Navy

James(JT) Strong – US Air Force

Kim E. Unruh - US Navy

If you see an unfamiliar face at a meeting, introduce yourself and welcome them. Many new members who transfer in say one of the reasons they left their old post was because of the atmosphere – it wasn't friendly. Let's not be that post.

Mark Your Calendar:

November – American Diabetes Month & Lung Cancer Awareness Month

November 3rd – Daylight Savings ends

November 8th – NIC Veteran Smiles Dental Hygiene Event – see Bits & Pieces

November 9th – Veterans' Recognition Event – see flyer on page 10

November 9th – Wills for Warriors Event – see flyer on page 11

November 11th – Veterans Day

November 28th – Thanksgiving

November 29th – Black Friday

December 14th – Wreaths Across America & Post 154 Christmas Party – Details below, pages 11-13

A Healthier You: November is both AMERICAN DIABETES MONTH as well as LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH so here is some information on both. Did you know...?

- The International Diabetes Federation predicts that 643 million adults will have diabetes by 2030, with 240 million of those cases undiagnosed.
- 11.6% of the population, had diabetes in 2021
- 1 in 5 people with diabetes don't know they have diabetes
- Type 2 is the most common, accounting for 90–95% of cases
- Diabetes is the leading cause of kidney failure, lower-limb amputations, and adult blindness
- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States and worldwide
- Smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer, responsible for about 85% of all cases
- Lung cancer mainly occurs in older people
- The average age of people when diagnosed is about 70
- The relative five-year survival rate for lung cancer diagnosed at any stage is 22.9%
- For small tumors that haven't spread to the lymph nodes, the survival rates are higher
- Symptoms include a cough that doesn't go away, chest pain, wheezing, and weight loss
- Most people with lung cancer don't have symptoms until the cancer is advanced.

Fun Fact: November 24, 1859 – Publishers released Charles Darwin's "Origin of the Species".

North Idaho Veterans Home

Flag Walk Brick Order Form

North Idaho Veterans Assistance League

North Idaho State Veterans Home

P.O Box 187, Post Falls, ID 83877

Phone (208) 651-0697

www.idahoveteransleague.com



The North Idaho Veterans Assistance League provides support for the North Idaho Veterans Home through programs such as the Flag Walk. Inscribed Bricks are available to individuals, groups and corporations for a donation of \$ 200.00 per brick.

REQUESTOR'S INFORMATION

Name / Family / Business / Organization _____

Contact Person _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Street/Mailing Address

City

State

Zip

Requestor's Status Individual Family Business/Corporation Organization

EXAMPLE INSCRIPTIONS

(Brick has 3 lines of text; 16 available characters on each line; no logos)

IN MEMORY OF
ROBERT MARSHALL
CDR US NAVY

BERNARD SLAWTER
SGT US NAVY
1943 - 1963 (RET)

BOY SCOUTS
OF AMERICA
TROOP 595

CONTOUR, INC
HONORING
OUR VETERANS

THE SMITH FAMILY
MIKE, SHIRLEY,
WILL & CAROL

SALLY MINTZ
GRANDMOTHER &
WWII VETERAN

DESIRED INSCRIPTION (SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY IVAL)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: NORTH IDAHO VETERAN ASSISTANCE LEAGUE

IN THE MEMO LINE: FLAG WALK BRICK PROGRAM

MAIL CHECK AND ORDER FORM TO: P.O. BOX 187, POST FALLS, ID 83877

Fun Fact: November 26, 1863 – First 'Official' Thanksgiving after President Lincoln's Proclamation.

Please Join the Rathdrum Community

2024

Veterans Recognition Ceremony

Honoring all Veterans

Saturday, November 9

Lakeland High School

Commons Area

- **All Veterans and Families Welcome**
 - **Doors Open at 10:00 AM**
 - **Ceremony Starts at 11:00 AM**
 - **Free Lunch at 12:00 PM**
- **Special Recognition To All Veterans**

Everyone is invited to this free celebration to meet, honor, & thank our Veterans. Event sponsored by the American Legion Post 154, N.W. Guardian Riders, and the City of Rathdrum.



POST 154

For more information please call Barbara Williams at 208-691-7964 or Helen Kinder at 208-772-7736. For more information call Rathdrum Parks and Recreation at 208-687-2399 or go to www.rathdrum.gov





NOVEMBER 9TH
10:00AM TO 3:00PM
8596 N. WAYNE DR. HAYDEN, ID 83835



WILLS FOR WARRIORS

QUALIFIED VETERANS ARE INVITED TO COME
CREATE THEIR FREE BASIC WILL. REGISTER
TODAY BY EMAILING INFO@ELEGACYLAW.COM
OR CALLING 888-308-PLAN!



CRANDALL
LAW GROUP



Fun Fact: November 26, 1922 – The tomb of Tutankhamun discovered in Egypt.



Post 154 Christmas Party
& Potluck

Saturday, December 14, 2024

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
13541 W. Highway 53 Rathdrum, Idaho

If you are bringing a child,
you can bring a labeled gift for Santa to deliver.

We have the Fellowship Hall and Kitchen from
10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. We will eat at 12:30

The Post is providing Ham, Water, Coffee, Cups,
Plates, Napkins & Plasticware
Please bring your favorite holiday dish to share...
main dish, salad, side, dessert, rolls/butter

PLEASE RSVP BY DECEMBER 1ST TO LET US KNOW
WHAT DISH YOU WILL BRING & HOW MANY PEOPLE
WILL BE ATTENDING IN YOUR PARTY.

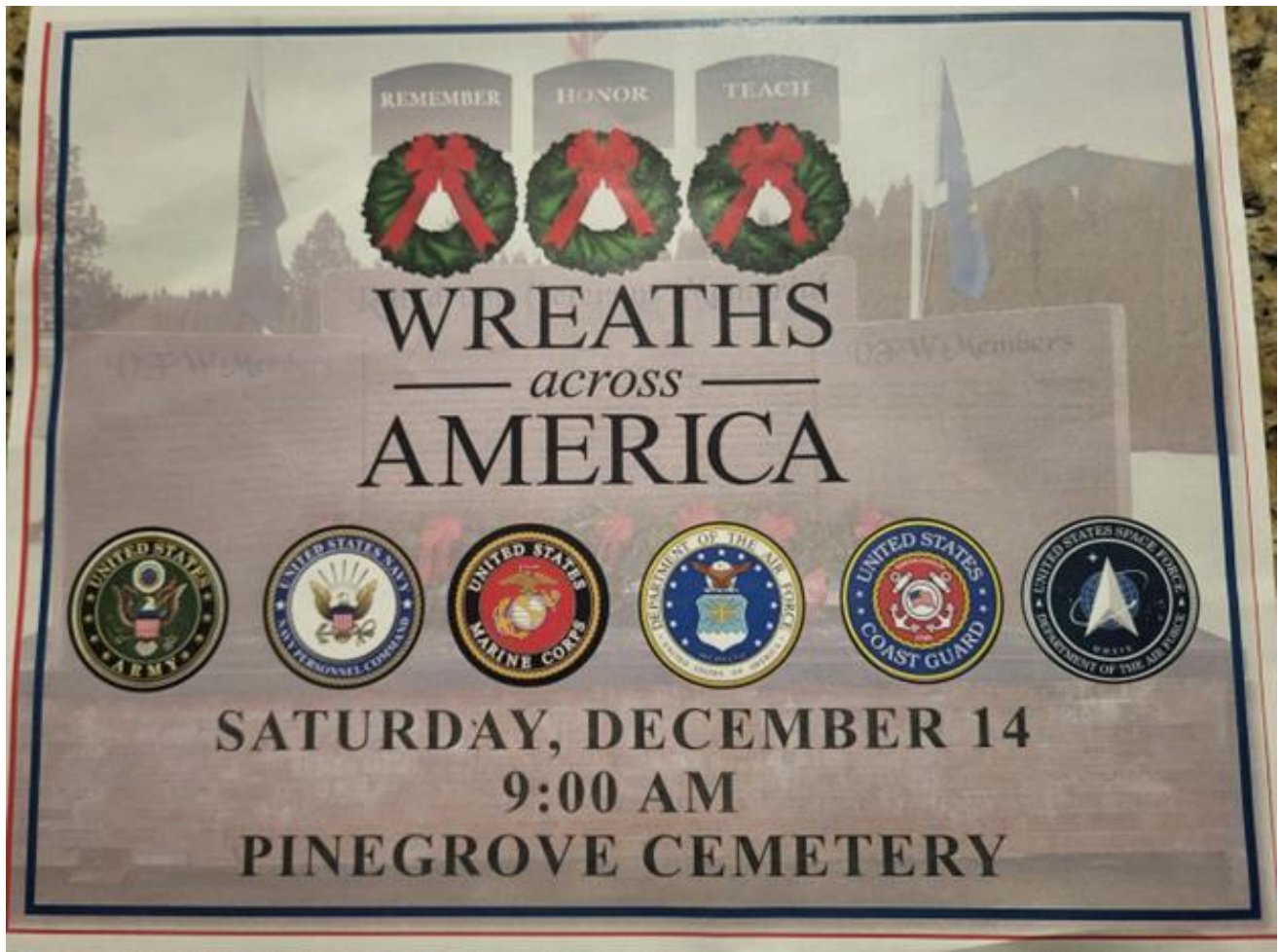
Email to: Sue Fevold at Schoolmarm66@hotmail.com
Cell phone or text: (208) 916-5149

Fun Fact: The full moon in November is called the "Beaver Moon".

The American Legion's TFA program provides one-time grants of up to \$1,500 for eligible veterans with minor child(ren) living in the home.



 AMERICAN
LEGION



REMEMBER HONOR TEACH

WREATHS
across
AMERICA

UNITED STATES ARMY
UNITED STATES NAVY
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
UNITED STATES COAST GUARD
UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14
9:00 AM
PINEGROVE CEMETERY

A poster for the "Wreaths Across America" event. At the top, three green wreaths with red bows are positioned under the words "REMEMBER", "HONOR", and "TEACH". Below the wreaths, the text "WREATHS across AMERICA" is displayed in a serif font. Underneath, there are six circular logos representing the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Department of the Air Force, Coast Guard, and Space Force. At the bottom, the event details are listed: "SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14", "9:00 AM", and "PINEGROVE CEMETERY".



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

Wreath Sponsorship Order Form

Add
QR Code
Here

Sponsored wreaths are placed on grave markers at state and national veterans' cemeteries, as well as at local and community cemeteries each December for National Wreaths Across America Day.

Your donation will ensure the placement of a veteran's wreath for one or more veterans laid to rest at the participating location of your choice.

All sponsored veteran wreaths are shipped directly to the location selected by the sponsor on this form. Wreaths are not shipped to individual wreath sponsors.

Please make checks payable to:
Wreaths Across America
PO Box 249
Columbia Falls, ME 04623

Call 877-385-9504 with any questions.
*Thank you for your sponsorship and for joining us
in our mission to Remember, Honor, and Teach!*

SPONSORSHIP TYPE	PRICE	QUANTITY	TOTAL
Individual = 1 Wreath	\$17.00		
Family = 4 Wreaths	\$68.00		
Small Business = 10 Wreaths	\$170.00		
Corporate = 100 Wreaths	\$1,700.00		

For quicker processing and the convenience of paying with a credit card, debit card, Google Pay, or PayPal, veteran wreaths may be sponsored online by scanning the QR Code above or by visiting: [{{insert direct link to group page and update the QR code}}](#)

You should be the only one to enter your credit card information at checkout on the Wreaths Across America website. For your security, do not share this information with anyone else who offers to place an order for you. To verify the validity of the QR Code, always check that wreathsacrossamerica.org is part of the web address when sponsoring wreaths online.

If you prefer to pay with a check, please complete this form and mail it along with your check to Wreaths Across America at the address listed in the box above.

CHECK #	CHECK DATE	SPONSOR NAME FOR DISPLAY <i>If different than name on check.</i>
GROUP ID(s)	IDRCCR	EMAIL ADDRESS
LOCATION ID(s)	ID0021	PHONE #
DOLLAR AMOUNTS(s)		MAILING ADDRESS

To split your donation between multiple groups and/or locations, please list the IDs and dollar amounts for each.

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Please note in memory/honor of requests do not place a wreath on a specific loved one's grave.

IN MEMORY OF REQUEST	The "In Memory Of" Name will be listed on the Wreaths Across America online Remember Wall, along with your personal message.
NAME FOR MEMORY WALL POST	
SPONSOR EMAIL ADDRESS	
MESSAGE (optional)	

IN HONOR OF REQUEST	An email will be sent to your chosen recipient from Wreaths Across America letting them know of your donation of sponsored veteran wreaths in their honor.
RECIPIENT NAME	
RECIPIENT EMAIL ADDRESS	
MESSAGE (optional)	

Thank you for supporting our mission to REMEMBER, HONOR, and TEACH!

Fun Fact: November 30, 1835 – Mark Twain's birthday.