



**Veterans' Memorial Project Committee
Veterans Advisory Board - Harlingen
Harlingen, Texas 78550**

www.harlingenveterans.com

**SUBJ: WAA - Fluid Plans for Saturday 18 December 2021
Date: as of 1 July 2021**

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WAA – LRGV Chapter Location ID is TXHTSA (please refer to this on all correspondence)

Dear Friends,

There will be a Wreaths Across America Day in Harlingen this year. Our efforts remain strong to honor and remember our Veterans who served our country 24/7 through times of economic and political hardships.

Wreaths Across America 2021 final plans are fluid but with a strong commitment to have a unique presence of an Opening Ceremony (Saturday 18 December 2021 at the Veterans Memorial at Pendleton Park located on 1425 Morgan Blvd. in Harlingen) while fashioning a safe game plan for wreath placement at our cemeteries. Stay tuned. The City of Harlingen is behind us.

While supporting and especially giving back to our community and our beloved Veterans, the goal is to place a live balsam evergreen remembrance wreath on the graves of all our interred Veterans. The mission is to REMEMBER the Fallen - HONOR those who serve and their families and TEACH the Children as we are one generation away from freedom.

Wreaths Across America Theme for 2021 *“Live Their Legacy”*

WAA credits what the United States Army Chief of Staff, General James C. McConville said in an interview with Chris Wallace recently. “We stand on the shoulders of heroes that have gone before us. It is the men and women who serve, every day people, giving of themselves for their country and communities. I urge everyone to look to them and to their families that have made these sacrifices to keep this county free and live their legacy”.

In 2020, approximately 1.7 million Veteran's wreaths were placed by volunteers on headstones at 2557 participating locations around the country (which included our Harlingen area) in honor of the service and sacrifices made for our freedoms, with each name said out loud. Our WAA volunteers work hard to ensure military laid to rest are remembered, their families and living Veterans are honored and the next generation is taught about the value of freedom.

If you care to reach out, become a volunteer, donate and/or order a live wreath for your interred Veteran, please contact me. www.harlingenveterans.com Enlist your special talent that could assist us in many ways.

In the past, groups have held typical fundraisers to support purchase of wreaths and some Funeral Homes have given donations. Several local cemeteries have participated because their families provided contributions. We will not have a sufficient number of wreaths without these efforts and donations.

For those who have ordered a wreath - We will have a convenient designated "Will Call" area at Pendleton Park on Saturday the 18th of December between 8am until 11 am. The family then can take their wreath to their cemetery. If there has been a general wreath (or monetary) donation made, it will be acknowledged as such.

We have a link to Facebook. Find us on www.harlingenveterans.com Some WAA nation-wide locations are holding a "virtual" 5K race with a portion of the registration going towards wreaths. (In our case, it could be in support for a general contribution or could be for a wreath for a specific cemetery). The goal of this race is to build community awareness and understanding of the mission their families. We are still reaching out in a safe manner while supporting and giving back to our community and our beloved Veterans.

Wreaths-Out Day is scheduled for Saturday 15 January 2022 and we can use volunteers to show up to their cemetery about 11 am and help collect the wreaths for proper disposal on site.