

Wreaths Across America - 2016

I would like the public to know about a ceremony that will take place at noon on Saturday, December 17th at Elks Point. This is the six year in a row that Freehold is honored to have Wreaths Across America continue the annual wreath laying ceremony at Elks Point. This event, as was previous years, is sponsored by the Freehold Masons Olive Branch Lodge #16.

To give you a little background...the wreath laying during the holidays was originally started at Arlington National Cemetery by Maine businessman, Morrill Worcester whose family owned Worcester Wreath Company. For 14 years the wreath laying was completed with very little fanfare. In 2005, the image of the wreaths in the snow at Arlington became an instant hit on the Internet and thousands of people contacted Worcester Wreath Company to see how they could get involved.

This year, the organization has more than 1,100 participating locations in all 50 states and over 40 locations overseas. Elk's Point in Freehold Borough is one of the 1,100 locations. All 1,100 locations will lay the wreaths at high noon on the same day - Saturday, December 17th. The reason the ceremonies are held at this time is to coincide with the laying of the wreaths at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. This year is significant for two reasons: (1) 2016 marks the 25th year that wreaths will be placed at Arlington National Cemetery. (2) The Wreaths Across America program will place almost 1 million wreaths at monuments and cemeteries at the 1,100 locations. Freehold Borough will do its part by placing wreaths at the 66 crosses at Elk's Point in addition to the monuments.

With all of the hustle and bustle of the Holiday Season, to remember veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice is a wonderful idea and we hope that this tradition of remembrance can grow each year.

I would like to thank the Masons for their contributions and their dedication in keeping this program going. Throughout the year they seek out opportunities in an around Freehold Borough to offer charity and in-kind support. This is another fine example of the good and caring work that Freemasons do for others.

Parking is at the Elks Lodge located at 73 East Main Street. Elks Point is located at the corner of East Main Street (Rt 537) and Broadway (Rt 79).

For further information please contact Councilman George Schnurr at gschnurr@freeholdboro.org / 908-451-2155

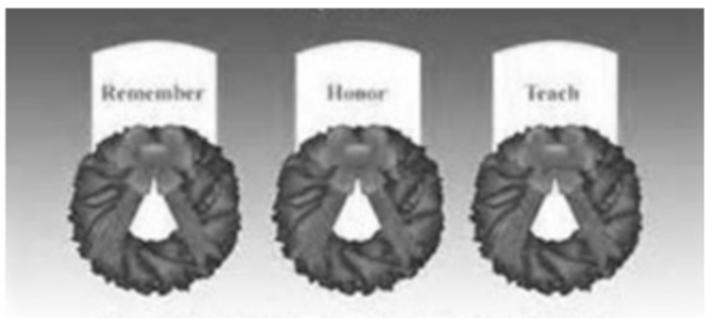
There is a short YouTube video from a Gold Star Mother that explains why the Wreaths Across America ceremony is performed each year.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hLxRsE7X6Rg>



Freehold Masons Olive Branch Lodge #16

Host



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

**DECEMBER 17, 2016
12:00 P. M.**

ELK'S POINT



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS CHAPTER 74
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE CORPORAL REYNOLDS
DETACHMENT 203
JEWISH WAR VETERANS POST 359
AMERICAN LEGION POST 54
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 4374

