

Annual Wreaths Across America ceremonies in Santa Fe to honor veterans

Written by Staff Reports

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SANTA FE – New Mexico Department of Veterans Services Secretary Jack Fox will take part in a special 10 am Christmas wreath ceremony on Dec. 11, at the State Capitol Rotunda in Santa Fe.

The public is invited to attend this annual ceremony presented by the Daughters of the American Revolution, Stephen Watts Kearny Chapter. Fox will represent the state of New Mexico in accepting a giant wreath donated by the Worcester Wreath Company. The Maine-based company is donating similar wreaths to all 50 states to honor the service of our nation's military veterans and active duty personnel.

On Dec. 16, the public is also invited to place nearly 2,000 smaller wreaths on gravesites at the Santa Fe National Cemetery for the annual 10 am Wreaths Across America ceremony presented by the Santa Fe Chapter of the Civil Air Patrol.

This ceremony is similar to ceremonies at more than 1,200 private and national cemeteries nationwide — including the Ft. Bayard National Cemetery in southwestern New Mexico — which are all synchronized with the noon (EDT) Wreaths Across America Ceremony at the Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

These smaller “live” wreaths are also provided by the Worcester Wreath Company and have been paid for by donations from private citizens or civic organizations wishing to honor the service and memory of deceased veterans.

For more information about the Dec. 11 State Capitol Wreath Ceremony, contact Eleanor Ortiz

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at eleanorbortiz@yahoo.com or call (505) 670-1089. For more information the Dec. 16 Wreaths Across America ceremony at the Santa Fe National Cemetery, contact Santa Fe CAP/Composite Squadron Commander Angie Slingluff at akwoman86@yahoo.com or call (907) 330-4977.

For more information about the Wreaths Across America program, go to www.wreathsa-crossamerica.org

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