



News Release

Military Officers Association of America
Southwest Virginia Chapter
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

MOAA SW CHAPTER MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN FOURTH ANNUAL SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA VETERANS CEMETERY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY

Despite bitter cold temperatures with matching winds, the fourth annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin was attended by a crowd estimated in the hundreds on Saturday, Dec. 10 with over 700 wreaths laid by families and members of the public.

The MOAA Southwest Virginia Chapter again participated in this event serving as the military representatives laying wreaths before service plaques during the formal ceremony as well as laying wreaths at the headstones throughout the cemetery. Chapter participants this year included: LTC Arthur Sommers, USA; COL Thomas Dalzell USMC; CAPT. Gary Powers, USN; COL Mark Clark USAF; CWO3 David Dillon, USCG and LTC James Flynn, USA. The program also included music by the 29th Division Band, Virginia Army National Guard., Virginia State Police Color Guard, and the American Legion Post #58 Rifle Team.

Opened in 2011, the 80-acre cemetery is one of three veteran cemeteries in Virginia, along with others in Amelia and Suffolk. Congress declared the second Saturday in December as National Wreath Laying Day across America and the wreath laying ceremony in Dublin is part of the National Wreaths Across America Day with the mission: "Remember, Honor and Teach". Over 700,000 wreaths were placed on veteran's graves at 1,000 locations across America and overseas. All wreaths in veterans' cemeteries

are laid on that day regardless of the weather and remain on the grave sites until January 5

It has been said that “A person dies twice: once when they take their final breath, and later, the last time their name is spoken’. Volunteers who place a wreath on a veteran's grave were encouraged to say that veteran's name aloud and take a moment to thank them for their service to our country. It's a small act that goes a long way toward keeping the memory of our veterans alive.



Participating in the 2016 Southwest Virginia Veterans Wreath Laying Ceremony were MOAA members; CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret), LTC Arthur Sommers, USA (Ret), COL Tom Dalzell, USMC (Ret), CWO3 David Dillon, USCG (Ret), LTC James Flynn, USA (Ret) and COL Mark Clark, USAF (Ret).



Over 700 wreaths were laid by families and members of the public over the 80 acre cemetery.

Popular for getting veterans and family members about the large cemetery was the 'MOAAMOBILE', a golf cart donated by the Southwest Virginia Chapter.

