



# News Release

**Military Officers Association of America**  
Southwest Virginia Chapter  
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## **SOUTHWEST CHAPTER MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA VETERANS CEMETERY WREATH LAYING CEREMONY**

The third annual wreath-laying ceremony at the Southwest Virginia Veterans Cemetery in Dublin was held on Saturday, Dec. 12 with over 600 wreaths laid by families and members of the public. Opened in 2011, the 80 acre cemetery is one of three veteran cemeteries in Virginia, along with others in Amelia and Suffolk. 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.

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: BG Scott Van Cleef, COL Thomas Dalzell, CAPT Gary Powers, LTC Jim Flynn, LTC Pat Green and CPT Larry Johnson.

The tradition of live wreaths is considered a symbol of strength, victory and eternal life. The U.S. Congress has designated the second Saturday in December as the day on which wreaths will be laid on veterans’ grave sites across America. Wreaths are placed on this day regardless of weather conditions.



*(Participating in the 2015 Southwest Virginia Veterans Wreath Laying Ceremony were MOAA members COL Tom Dalzell, USMC (Ret), CAPT Gary Powers, USN (Ret), LTCOL James Flynn, USA (Ret) and BG Scott Van Cleef, USAF (Ret)).*



*(Over 600 wreaths were laid by families and members of the public over the 80 acre cemetery.)*