**National Park Service**

**U.S. Department of the Interior**

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**Shiloh National Military Park** News Release

**Release date: Contact(s):
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**12/13/22**

Shiloh to Participate in National Wreaths Across America Day

followed by a Ranger-Led Tour of the National Cemetery

SHILOH – On December 17th, Shiloh National Military Park will participate in the national Wreaths Across America day. The ceremony will begin at 11:00 am in the national cemetery.

“The laying of wreaths on the graves of honored dead has been done since the time of Ancient Greece,” said Superintendent Allen Etheridge. “The circular shape of the wreath represents eternity, for it has no beginning and no end, and the greenery represents everlasting life. Laying a wreath is an act of remembrance for someone’s life and service, and we invite everyone to come and help place the wreaths.”

Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, was founded by Mr. Morrill Worcester of Harrington, Maine. When Mr. Worchester was 12 years old he visited Arlington National Cemetery, an experience he would never forget. Decades later, in 1992, his sent his company's surplus of 5,000 wreaths to be placed at Arlington, and he continued sending wreaths every year. In 2005, a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the web. Suddenly, the project received national attention. Today the event has expanded to the placement of over 1.2 million wreaths in over 1,400 locations across the nation.

The event will begin at 11:00 am with a short patriotic ceremony. Following the ceremony, everyone in attendance will be invited to come forward and assist with laying the wreaths on the graves.

At 12:00 pm, Ranger Timothy Arnold will lead a tour of the Shiloh National Cemetery. Participants will [learn interesting](http://www.nps.gov/shil) stories of individuals interred in the cemetery including the first officer to fall in the battle of Shiloh, and the only two Confederates buried here. The tour is free and pre-registration is not required.

More information can be obtained by contacting the Shiloh Battlefield Visitor Center at 731-689-5696, or online at [www.nps.gov/shil](http://www.nps.gov/shil).

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