**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Wreaths Across America Teams up with XYZ and LocalCommunity to Remember and Honor Throughout the Year with Launch of “Giving in July”**

**[Subhead can include anything specific the local community has planned, e.g., To host Fourth of July/special event to benefit local wreath fundraising effort; etc...]**

**COLUMBIA FALLS, Maine and [YOUR LOCATION] —** **June xx, 2018** **—** National nonprofit Wreaths Across America announced today that it is teamed up with [name of local nonprofit/business] and the localcommunity to remember and honor our nation’s veterans and active duty military throughout the year by celebrating “Giving in July.”

It is during the holidays that our deployed servicemen and women miss home the most and there are empty seats at family gatherings. And generally, it is during the holidays, when conflict and strife are replaced by charity and goodwill toward one another. “Giving in July” for Wreaths Across America is an idea that reminds us of all our deployed men and women who will not be home for the holidays. Thinking about the holidays during the summer months provides us with the perfect opportunity to encourage others to get involved now with the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach by sharing the stories of hometown heroes and coming together to ensure each person is never forgotten.

Locally, volunteers will be working to collect and share the stories of those heroes buried at [insert local cemetery]. [Cemetery name] has been a participating location of Wreaths Across America since [year] and together the community raises funds to honor the [number] of individuals buried their each December with the placement of sponsored veterans’ wreaths made of fresh Maine balsam. [Insert any special promotions the Locations/Fundraising Groups have planned for July. This could include a partnership with a local business or fundraising events].

“With Giving in July, we want our country’s veterans to be thought of and honored each and every day of the year, not just in December. Our veterans and our current military serve and protect us 365 days a year, providing us with freedoms that we enjoy as citizens every day in this country,” said Karen Worcester, executive director, Wreaths Across America. “We look forward to learning the names and stories of the local heroes buried at [insert LOCATION] and encourage the community to Remember our veterans, Honor their memories and Teach their children of the sacrifices made, every day.”

Wreaths Across America is a non-profit organization best known for its annual National Wreaths Across America Day events each December that draws thousands of volunteers to place live veterans’ wreaths from Maine to locations all over the country and hand place them on headstones of the fallen in memory of America’s veterans. In 2017, more than a million volunteers placed 1.6 million wreaths at more than 1,400 locations across the United States, and overseas. Nearly a quarter of a million veterans’ wreaths were placed by a record-breaking 90,000+ volunteers at Arlington National Cemetery alone in 2017.

To share names and stories of local heroes, use the hashtag #GivingInJuly on social media. To sponsor a wreath for a veteran buried at [name of cemetery] please visit [insert direct link].

**About Wreaths Across America**

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization’s mission – Remember, Honor, Teach – is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at thousands of veterans’ cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond.

To find a location near you or to sponsor a wreath, please visit [www.wreathsacrossamerica.org](http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org).

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