



## **Wreaths Across America Escort to Arlington making an important stop at Dover Motor Speedway on Thursday, Dec. 12**

- *Monster Mile stop is part of the annual trek from Maine to Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.*
- *Parade and ceremony to honor nation's veterans free to the public.*
- *Sponsor a wreath to raise money for Delaware children in need.*

**DOVER, Del. (Oct. 16, 2024)** – Dover Motor Speedway hosts the only First State stop on **Wreaths Across America's** annual trek to honor America's heroes at Arlington National Cemetery on **Thursday, Dec. 12.**

Wreaths Across America's 60-vehicle convoy of tractor-trailers, Patriot Guard riders, veterans, Gold Star Families first responders and the Dover Motor Speedway pace car will parade to the Monster Monument at Victory Plaza for a ceremony before making its way to Arlington.

The **Thursday, Dec. 12** schedule includes (all times approximate):

- **9 a.m. to 1 p.m.: Veterans Fair** - Free and open to all veterans and their families. The Wreaths Across America Mobile Education Exhibit will also be set up at Dover Motor Speedway to give free tours.
- **12:15 p.m.:** Convoy featuring 14-15 tractor-trailers, Patriot Guard rides and other law enforcement, Gold Star family members, first-responders and the Dover Motor Speedway pace car arrives on U.S. 13 at the Scarborough Road intersection.
- **12:45 p.m.:** Convoy arrives at Dover Motor Speedway via Leipsic Road.
- **1:30 p.m.:** Free ceremony begins at the Monster Monument at Victory Plaza, Dover Motor Speedway's famous 46-foot landmark honoring the Monster Mile's champions. Special programming with various presentations, live music, color guard, flyover and guest speakers, including Gold Star family members.
  - Ceremony emcee scheduled to be **Mike Bagley**, a Motor Racing Network announcer, SiriusXM NASCAR Radio host and a Milford, Delaware, native.

The tradition of placing handmade balsam wreaths on fallen heroes' graves began with the Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine, in 1992. Related wreath-laying ceremonies are now held each December at 4,600-plus participating U.S. locations and overseas.

“We are honored to host Wreaths Across America’s wonderful holiday tradition as it makes its way to Arlington National Cemetery,” said Mike Tatoian, Dover Motor Speedway’s president and general manager. “There is no adequate way we can honor the sacrifice our veterans have made toward the growth and strength of our nation, but this event serves as a small token of our gratitude. We’re inviting the whole community to enjoy the ceremony with us on Thursday, Dec. 12.”

Additional information and more details on ceremony participants will be shared closer to the event date.

### **SPONSOR A WREATH, HELP DELAWARE CHILDREN:**

In addition, supporters can sponsor a wreath at [//www.wreathscrossamerica.org/dovermotorspeedway](http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org/dovermotorspeedway) to be placed at area cemeteries. For every wreath sponsored through this portal, \$5 is donated to **Speedway Children’s Charities, Dover Motor Speedway chapter**, which raises money for Delaware children in need.

### **FOLLOW US:**

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### **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 each December at Arlington, as well as at hundreds of veterans’ cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. For more information, to donate or to sign up to volunteer visit [www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org](http://www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org).