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## **LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO HOLD WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA CEREMONIES AT STATE-RUN VETERANS CEMETERIES**

**BATON ROUGE, La.**—The Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs will hold Wreaths Across America ceremonies at Louisiana’s state-run veterans cemeteries on Saturday, Dec. 16. Ceremonies are held annually on the third Saturday in December across the nation at more than 3,700 memorial sites in all 50 states, Puerto Rico and on foreign soil to remember, honor and teach. The theme for this year’s Wreaths Across America ceremonies nationwide is “Serve and Succeed.”

“Our veterans across Louisiana not only served their country in the United States Armed Forces, but many continue serving faithfully today in their local communities,” said LDVA Secretary Joey Strickland. “This year we want to stress the importance of all of us giving back to our neighbors. I encourage every veteran and their family members and friends to each find a way to serve others in some capacity to strengthen and build all of our Louisiana communities. Every little bit helps.”

The Wreaths Across America 2023 schedule of events at our five state-run cemeteries is as follows:

### Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery

3348 University Parkway

Leesville, LA 71446

Sat. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> 10:55 a.m. ceremony followed by wreath placement

Guest Speaker Brigadier General David W. Gardner, Commanding General, JRTC and Fort Johnson

### Northeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery

2413 Highway 425

Rayville, LA 71269

Sat. Dec 16<sup>th</sup> wreath placement at 10 a.m. followed by ceremony at 11 a.m.

Guest Speaker The Honorable Judge Will R. Barham, Division B, Fifth Judicial District in Louisiana

### Northwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery

7970 Mike Clark Road

Keithville, LA 71047

Wreaths Across the Cemetery: No ceremony, but wreath placement took place on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup>

### Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery

34888 Grantham College Drive

Slidell, LA 70460

Sat. Dec 16<sup>th</sup> 11 a.m. ceremony followed by wreath placement

Story of four veterans interred at this cemetery will be told

Southwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery  
1620 Evangeline Road  
Jennings, LA 70546

Sat. Dec 16<sup>th</sup> 10:55 a.m. ceremony followed by wreath placement

Guest speaker is the spouse of Ret. USAF MSGT Robert Vanacore: Mrs. Palma Vanacore

In 2022, a total of 2.7 million veterans' wreaths were placed across the country at 3,702 participating locations. More than two million volunteers – a third of whom were children -- helped place wreaths. Over 644 truckloads of wreaths were delivered across the country by hundreds of volunteer professional truck drivers driving donated equipment and fuel from approximately 296 transportation partners.

If you would like to purchase a wreath for 2024, follow one or more of the links below for your veterans cemetery of choice:

Central Louisiana Veterans Cemetery  
[bit.ly/LeesvilleWreaths](https://bit.ly/LeesvilleWreaths)

Northeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery  
[bit.ly/RayvilleWreaths](https://bit.ly/RayvilleWreaths)

Southeast Louisiana Veterans Cemetery  
[bit.ly/SlidellWreaths](https://bit.ly/SlidellWreaths)

Southwest Louisiana Veterans Cemetery  
[bit.ly/JenningsWreaths](https://bit.ly/JenningsWreaths)

For more information about the Wreaths Across America ceremonies or LDVA, visit [vetaffairs.la.gov](https://vetaffairs.la.gov), email [veteran@la.gov](mailto:veteran@la.gov), call 225.219.5000 or follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter.

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