**Honoring a Loved One**

Many people attend and participate at the Wreaths Across America Ceremony each year to Remember and Honor our veterans by placing a holiday wreath on the veteran graves. Some people attending the event have a loved one interred at the cemetery and would like to honor those individuals themselves, inevitably when they get to the grave marker; they find that a wreath has already been laid there.

What this policy will attempt to do is establish a process that will allow these families the opportunity to be the first to lay the wreath on their loved ones grave.

Fayetteville National Cemetery will:

1. Maintain an electronic searchable directory of all veteran interments at the cemetery to assist individuals in finding the specific location of their loved one.
2. Personnel are available to assist with the use of this directory upon request

Wreaths Across America Managers will:

1. Allow individuals who wish to lay a wreath on a specific grave to be the first to get a wreath and make their way to the grave of their family member.
2. Have military and cadet mentors available to provide customs and courtesy information to the public.
3. Escorts/Ushers will be available to assist the public if they need assistance with carrying the wreath or walking through the cemetery.

Every attempt will be made to ensure these individuals have the opportunity to be the first to lay a wreath on their loved ones grave, but because the amount of people that attend the event is extremely large, The Cemetery and Wreaths Across America cannot guarantee that a wreath has not already been laid on a specific grave.

In the event the individual does find a wreath already on the grave, we make the following recommendation:

1. Solemnly approach the wreath and remove it, setting it aside.
2. Lay the wreath you had selected previously on your loved ones grave and spend whatever amount of quality time you would like with your family member.
3. Recover the wreath that you just removed and find another veteran’s grave to honor with that wreath. Some families cannot come to the ceremony and you can help ensure that their veteran gets honored by placing the second wreath on that other grave.

This document is provided as a guide to assist family members, cemetery personnel and Wreaths Across America volunteers in ensuring that all veterans get honored in the most optimal manner possible.

**David L. Myers, Lt Col, CAP**

Event Manager - Wreaths Across America

U.S. Air Force Auxiliary

[GoCivilAirPatrol.com](http://www.gocivilairpatrol.com/)

[ArkansasWing.org](http://arkansaswing.org/)