

Bakersfield National Cemetery

with



PRESS RELEASE

Wreath Across America CHRISTMAS IN JULY

The Bakersfield National Cemetery, in partnership with the Bakersfield Republican Women, Federated (BRWF), will celebrate America's birthday by kicking off its Christmas in July campaign to ensure the final resting place of every veteran is honored during National Wreaths Across America Day on December 16, 2023.

The campaign will encourage local supporters to purchase enough wreaths to place one on each of the approximately 7,300 markers in the cemetery, a goal that was not met in 2021 or 2022. Penny Martinez, a United States Air Force veteran and BRWF's Caring for America Chairperson said the fact that at least 1,000 of the veteran's graves went without a wreath was "unacceptable."

"In a patriotic community like ours that loves our military veterans, that shouldn't happen," she said.

Each December on National Wreaths Across America Day, wreath-laying ceremonies are held at 3,700 locations in all 50 states, from the Bakersfield National Cemetery to the Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Sponsors who wish to purchase wreaths may do so throughout the year, though with only five months left before the event, about 5,000 wreaths are still needed for the Bakersfield location. Wreaths are \$17 each and may be purchased online at the BRWF site at wreathscrossamerica.org/CA0797. For every two wreaths purchased via the site, a third will be added at no charge.

The December 16th program and wreath-laying ceremony will begin at 9 a.m. at the Bakersfield National Cemetery, 30338 E. Bear Mountain Blvd. in Arvin.

Caring for America Chair Penny Martinez, Armed Forces Chair Pam Brunni, and Bakersfield National Cemetery Director Cindy Van Bibber are available for interviews prior to or on the July 4th kick-off.

To schedule an interview or for more info please contact Marylee Shrider, 661-203-8173.