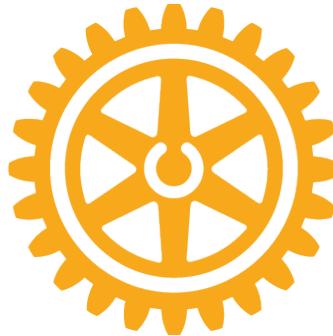


Rotary



Rotary District 6510
Veterans Affairs
Committee

Rotary District 6510

Veterans Affairs Committee





Purpose

To assist Rotary District 6510 Clubs in
honoring and serving our Veterans
who have so faithfully served our
great Nation

The Rotary District 6510 Veterans Affairs Committee was started 6 years ago thanks to the vision and compassion of our very own Lane Harvey, who was then District Governor in 2014-2015. Since its inception, District 6510 has supported the goals of This Able Veteran (led by Behesha Doan and Pam Largent) in addressing the ongoing national tragedy of service members taking their own lives. Rotary District 6510 has worked with partners to fund the research and ongoing work TAV - and it's culminated in great things for these great American Heroes. With the ongoing support of many caring and generous people like you, our goal is to continue to demonstrate the healing power of the human-canine connection. Our veterans deserve the chance to turn despair into hope and self-empowerment. The men and women of Rotary District 6510 are honored to be teaming with TAV to be a part of making lives better for our Nation's heroes.

In December of every year, hundreds of thousands of Americans join together to honor our deceased veterans by placing a beautiful wreath at grave sites during ceremonies conducted at cemeteries, historic sites & memorials. This effort is sponsored by a very special organization known as "Wreaths Across America" and is carried out by civic, military service, educational, & community groups all throughout the country.

Five years ago, Rotary District 6510 (Carterville Club) started placing Honor Wreaths (250 Wreaths) on Veterans' Graves at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery and our District is now placing more than 6000 Wreaths on Veterans' Graves throughout our District.



This Able Veteran (TAV)

- *Provides service dogs to veterans suffering with PTSD – all free of charge*
 - *Includes room and board during all phases of evaluation and training, and hands-on training with the service dog*
 - *TAV relies on the evaluation and diagnosis of the Veteran's psychologist/clinician. Throughout TAV's relationship with the veteran, the organization includes medical support as a part of their efforts*





Rotary District 6510 Supports “This Able Veteran” (TAV)

- Here's how:
- We raised \$25,000 in 2015/2016 to sponsor Rotary Dog "Memphis"
 - Memphis and Veteran Sam Hoekstra teamed up in April '16
- We raised \$25,000 in 2016/2017 to sponsor Rotary Dog "Oliver"
 - Oliver and Vietnam Veteran Marc teamed up in September '17
- At our June '18 TAV Rotary Fundraiser, we raised over \$14,000
- Our goal was to sponsor a 3rd Dog this year (2018/2019)
 - And we're very happy to report that we've accomplished that!
- At our September '19 TAV Rotary Fundraiser, we raised over \$36,000
 - Special thanks to O'Fallon Rotarian Dave Chumley for donating \$25,000
- Right now, we've got a total of \$50,000 raised
 - We'll be sponsoring our 3rd Rotary Dog, Mary Catherine "MCat" in 2021



“This Able Veteran” (TAV)

20 is the number of Veterans who take their own lives - Every Day!

- Rotary District 6510 finds that completely unacceptable!
- We are doing something to change it!
- Over 600,000 Veterans suffer traumatic stress injuries.
- But there is hope! This Able Veteran (TAV) helps them come home in body and mind. TAV Service Dogs, combined with the Trauma Resilience Program (TRP), help heal the wounds.
- Sometimes there are no words.
- There is only loyalty, friendship and hope.
- Support hope.
- Rotary District 6510 supports “This Able Veteran”.



Rotary District 6510 Supports “This Able Veteran” (TAV)

- TAV is a 501(c)3 that was awarded NFP status in October 2011
- To date we have paired 66 veterans/service dogs; approximately 8 veterans have attended the Trauma Resilience Program (TRP) without getting a dog
- We do not take any government funding; all donations come from the community, businesses, foundations, etc.
- We currently have 5 pups in training and one dog left from the 2020 class
- Our Board of Directors have been carefully selected to benefit the organization within the community (someone from health care, banking, etc.)
- TAV President and Events Director are volunteers

- TAV holds one Trauma Resilience Program (TRP) each year with 6-10 pairs of veteran/service dogs (SD). The class runs for 21 days, 7 days a week, 9:00-4:30. It is a residency program (all veterans including those that are local) stay at a hotel in Marion, IL. While the veterans are encouraged to communicate with those back home, family members are not allowed at the hotel until the end of the program. Veterans are given homework to complete each evening. The program is extremely intense and focuses on healing.
- During TRP, the veterans learn how to work with their SD, training techniques, how to care for the SD, etc. They meet the dog on Day 1; the dog is with them during class while they learn and bond with the dog. The other half of the class is working on life skills, trauma, tools & techniques to assist them during anxiety/anger/depression. On approximately Day 3, when they have all of the necessary information and skills, the veterans are allowed to take their dogs to the hotel overnight.
- Veterans apply to our program; some find TAV on the Internet, some are referred by other veterans or groups, some are referred by their therapist. The application has 3 parts: veteran, therapist & close family member.
- The dogs are purpose bred to do this work; mainly Labrador Retrievers. Puppies come in at 8-10 weeks of age and training starts immediately. The dogs never spend a night in the kennel; they go home with a trainer each night. Training is done daily and each night. TAV tries to replicate any situation their veteran may have: single person, children, noisy environments, city living, country atmosphere. We also provide varied experiences: ball games, stores, restaurants, bus, train, etc. At around 8 months, the dogs begin specialized training for their veteran.



Note: Sam's life has greatly improved; he and his wife had a baby 1 1/2 years ago. He has gone on to work with in-need veterans as a veteran support advocate at the Marion VAMC. This ability to give back to other veterans is such a positive outcome of his personal healing.







OLIVER







Note: TAV recently adopted out one of the dogs to a Gold Star family that owns a store across the street from Ft. Campbell. The soldiers and veterans that frequent the store love coming in and interacting with the dog. She will also go to the Gold Star family events and do some Public Relations for TAV.





Our third Rotary
District 6510 Dog,
Mary Catherine
“Mcat”
is currently in
training at TAV





**thisABLE
VETERAN**

~~22~~ 20 veterans still take their own lives – EVERY day.

We find that completely unacceptable and are doing our part to change it.

This Able Veteran is a 501 (c)3 organization providing service dogs and a Trauma Resiliency Program for veterans suffering with psychological and physical injuries as a result of their service. Learn all about them or make a donation online at www.thisableveteran.org





National “Wreaths Across America” Day is a movement to cover all Veterans’ grave markers with a Christmas wreath. Observed annually for the last 27 years on the 3rd Saturday in December, this year’s ceremonies will be held on Saturday, December 18th 2021 in more than 1600 cemeteries across America.

“Remember. Honor. Teach.” This is the mission of “Wreaths Across America.” By coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and other veterans’ cemeteries around the country, “Wreaths Across America” strives to remember our fallen heroes, honor those who serve, and teach our children about the selfless sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedom.





“A person dies twice: once when they take their final breath, and later, the last time their name is spoken.”

We encourage every volunteer who places a wreath on a Veteran’s grave to say that Veteran’s name aloud, and take a moment to thank them for their service to our country. It’s a small act that goes a long way toward keeping the memory of our Veterans alive.

We are not here to “decorate graves”.

We’re here to remember not their deaths, but their lives.

- **Karen Worcester, Executive Director of Wreaths Across America**

Rotary District 6510 Supports “Wreaths Across America” (WAA)

- In 2015, Carterville Rotary started laying 250 wreaths at Mounds City National Cemetery
- In 2016, Honor Wreaths For Veterans (HWFV) was founded. Carterville Rotary Club was working on Mounds City National Cemetery. HWFV was also sponsoring wreaths in Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, Camp Butler National Cemetery, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Danville National Cemetery, and Arlington National Cemetery (1100 wreaths).
- In 2017, Carterville City Cemeteries were added to Carterville Rotary and O'Fallon Rotary added O'Fallon City Cemetery. HWFV also added Alton National Cemetery, Rock Island National Cemetery, and Black Hills National Cemetery (One of our board members' father is buried there) (1700 Wreaths).
- In 2018, HWFV we stayed the same (2800 wreaths).
- In 2019, HWFV added Colp Memorial Cemetery, Anna City Cemetery, Mount Vernon Memorial Gardens along with O'Fallon Rotary laying wreaths at 2 additional cemeteries in the area (6000 wreaths).
- 2020 started out great until COVID 19 hit. We ended up sponsoring over 7000 wreaths (Over 3500 at Mounds).
- Rotary District 6510 Point of Contact is:
Jim Koonce, Carterville Club, jim@honorwreathsforveterans.org 618-201-6636



The Carterville Rotary Club along with Jackson-Williamson Rotary Club are sponsoring their 6th annual wreath laying ceremony on Saturday, December 18th 2021 at Mounds National Cemetery placing 3500+ wreaths on the graves there. Carterville has done this for the past five years and has found it very moving.



The O'Fallon Rotary Club is sponsoring our 6th Annual wreath laying ceremony on Saturday, December 18th, 2021 at three O'Fallon and three Shiloh Cemeteries. We'll be placing 740 wreaths on the graves of Veterans there. The memorial ceremony will start promptly at 11 AM. All Rotarians and interested citizens are welcome to attend. We'd especially like to invite our Youth (OTHS AF JROTC, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc). We guarantee you'll find this ceremony very moving. This event will be held simultaneously at cemeteries throughout the USA.



**Join us on National Wreaths Across America
(501c3) Day on December 18th 2021.**

Each December, on National Wreaths Across America Day, our mission to “Remember, Honor and Teach” is carried out by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as over 1,600 additional locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea, and abroad. Wreaths are laid at Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery in Missouri and Alton National Cemetery in Illinois.



Our heartfelt thanks to the following for their participation (2020):

Boy Scout Troop 35 (Tom Gibson)
Cub Scout Pack 35 (Mike Weisenbach)
Cub Scout Pack 47 (Ryan Sommer)
Boy Scout Troop 85 (Bryan King)
Boy Scout Troop 94 (Mike Ueda)
Cub Scout Pack 94 (Mike Mojzis)
Daisy Troop 216 (Kaci Durbin)
Girl Scout Troop 513 (Lindsay Sullivan)
Girl Scout Troop 641 (Susan Heide-Wexell)
OTHS AFJROTC Cadets (Col Pauly & SMSgt Janas)
DAR – Looking Glass Prairie Chapter (Kim Dalrymple)
DAR – Belleville Chapter (Brandy Werner)

Procedures for Scouts:

After the playing of Taps, the Scouts will be given the command, "Scouts, please place the wreaths". The Scouts will pick up the wreaths in front of the headstones and solemnly place them on the headstones or lean them against the front of the headstones. Once the wreaths are in place, the Scout will state "(Read the name on the headstone), thank you for your Outstanding Service to our Great Nation."



The O'Fallon and Shiloh ceremonies are planned, executed and sponsored by the Selfless Men and Women of the O'Fallon Rotary Club. The club also donates more than \$3000 toward the purchase of the 740 Wreaths. The club is committed to "Making a positive difference" in our Community, our Nation and our World.



Sample Program

- Introduction – USAF Colonel Retired Phil Goodwin
- Welcome - O'Fallon Mayor Herb Roach
- Post Colors – O'Fallon VFW
- National Anthem – Miss O'Fallon (OTHS Student)
- Pledge of Allegiance – Scout Halie Tanksley, Troop 599
- Invocation – Rotarian Mary Alice Koriath
- Remarks – USAF Colonel Retired Woody Almind
- Rifle Volley – O'Fallon VFW
- Taps – OTHS Marching Panther Trumpet Players
- Closing Remarks – USAF Colonel Retired Phil Goodwin
- Placement of Wreaths – Scouts and JROTC Cadets



Procedures for Scouts:

After the playing of Taps, the Scouts will be given the command, "Scouts, please place the wreaths".

The Scouts will pick up the wreaths in front of the headstones and solemnly place them on the headstones or lean them against the front of the headstones.

Once the wreaths are in place, the Scout will state "(Read the name on the headstone), thank you for your Outstanding Service to our Great Nation."

We sincerely appreciate the generosity of the following donors (2021):

Major Donors

Tanya Hawkins

and The Prime Group of ReMax Preferred - \$1000

Phil and Jonell Roberts - \$550

Kim Dalrymple, Lacy Branch, Marion Rose and The Looking Glass Prairie
Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution - \$300
Brandy Werner and The Belleville Chapter Daughters of the American
Revolution - \$150

Donors (\$100)

Cub Scout Pack 47 - \$100

Kaci Durbin and Girl Scout Troop 216 - \$100

Red Door Realty Group - \$100

Woody and Marilyn Almind - \$100

Roger and Mary Baskett - \$100

Darrell and Shirley Cook - \$100

Rich and Carol Lunan - \$100

Ed and Myrna True - \$100

Debbie Yaeger

Tom and Linda Kahley - \$30



FUNDRAISER NIGHT

for

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

3240 Green Mount Crossing
Shiloh, IL 62269

By donating, you help us remember our fallen heroes, honor those who serve, and teach our children about the selfless sacrifices made by veterans and their families to preserve our freedom.



10% of all sales go to our organization, and we will have tip jars near the registers!

See you there!



WREATHS — *across* — AMERICA

Numerous Rotary District 6510 Cemeteries
Saturday, 18 December 2021 @ 11 AM

*Remember our fallen heroes, honor those who serve, and
teach our children about the selfless sacrifices made by
veterans and their families to preserve our freedom.*







Rotary District 6510 Veteran's Affairs Committee Calendar

- Where we stand with sponsoring dogs
- Future TAV events
 - Next TAV Dinner (Sat 2 Oct, McKendree Univ)
 - Next TAV graduation – September 2021
 - Next set of dogs beginning training (Now)
 - Color Run – Sponsored by Carterville Rotary Club (Sat 2 Oct)
 - Honor Flights
- Where we stand with purchasing wreaths for this year (Sat 18 Dec at 11 AM CDT)
- Clubs engaged (Carterville, Jackson-Williamson, Mt Vernon, O'Fallon)

