

IMAGINE HAVING THIS MUCH COMPASSION

Arlington at Christmas

I had no idea this was done. I thought you might want to see it.

Arlington National Cemetery



Rest easy, sleep well my brothers.

Know the line has held, your job is done.

Rest easy, sleep well.

Others have taken up where you fell, the line has held.

Peace, peace, and farewell...



Readers may be interested to know that these wreaths -- some 5,000 -- are donated by the Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington , Maine. The owner, Merrill Worcester, not only provides the wreaths, but covers the trucking expense as well. He's done this since 1992. A wonderful guy. Also, most years, groups of Maine school kids combine an educational trip to DC with this event to help out. Making this even more remarkable is the fact that Harrington is in one the poorest parts of the state.

Please share this with everyone on your address list. You hear too much about the bad things people do. Everyone should hear about this.

RKC Reporter Editor's Comment:

Rosemead Kiwanis and Kiwanis International President Frank DiNoto received the above E-mail and distributed it as a "forward to all" inspiration to his mailing list as part of the December 7, 2007, Pearl Harbor day observance.

So often such e-mails turn out to be hoaxes. This one, thankfully, is not.

The donor is a large holiday decoration company based in Maine. Their products are primarily distributed thru L.L. Bean. According to snopes.com, in 1992 one of their factories had an overrun of 4000 wreaths. The owner decided to offer them to Arlington Cemetery, the former estate of Civil War General Robert E. Lee near Washington, D.C. where over 300,000 veterans of American wars are interred.

The offer was accepted, and began a tradition of annual donations (now 5000 annually) to Arlington, later expanded to 230 State and National cemeteries and veterans monuments across the United States. The Corporation historically refused to accept any donations for its work in this area. However, nationwide publicity was drawn to the effort by a 2005 *USA Today* article. As a result Mr. Worcester established a non-profit group, Wreaths across America, which has partnered with the 65,000 member Civil Air Patrol and others to take the project nationwide. Their website is <http://www.wreathscrossamerica.org> .

-- Art Landing, RKC Reporter Editor and Webmaster