



DEC2023

# ROADSIDE READER



Remember • Honor • Teach



WREATHS *across* AMERICA

## DEADLINE IS NEAR

### Enroll in an affordable health insurance plan quickly and easily

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*NOTE: If you miss open enrollment, you may have to wait until next year to enroll.*

#### Jimmy Evans with Bruce Oakley Trucking shares his testimonial



Video 1



Video 2



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## CONTACT US

Association & NAIT Member Benefits  
NAIT Specialist Mona Brimeyer 877-770-6248  
MemberBenefits@naitusa.com



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# WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



**Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach the next generation the value of freedom.**

National Wreaths Across America Day will be held this year on Saturday, Dec. 16, 2023. Join the more than two million volunteers and supporters who will gather to Remember, Honor, and Teach at more than 4,000 participating locations in all 50 states, at sea, and abroad.

Wreaths Across America is a heartfelt and impactful tradition that honors the sacrifices of our nation's veterans. This annual event, which takes place at cemeteries across the United States, has a rich history and a profound purpose. In this blog post, we will explore the origins of Wreaths Across America, its growth over the years, and its meaningful purpose in bringing communities together to remember and honor those who have served in the military.

The story of Wreaths Across America began with Morrill Worcester, a businessman from Harrington, Maine. In 1992, Worcester had a surplus of wreaths after the holiday season. He arranged for the wreaths to be placed on graves at Arlington National Cemetery to honor and remember veterans. This simple and compassionate gesture laid the foundation for a nationwide tradition.

Placing wreaths on the graves of fallen soldiers during the holiday season resonated with many, and over the years, Worcester's idea gained momentum. In 2007, Wreaths Across America officially became a nonprofit organization with a mission to remember, honor, and teach. The organization expanded its efforts to include not only Arlington National Cemetery but also cemeteries and memorial sites across the country.

Wreaths Across America serves as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by members of the military to secure and protect the freedoms we hold dear. The act of placing wreaths on graves is a visible and symbolic gesture that ensures these individuals are not forgotten, especially during a time of year associated with family and togetherness.



Beyond remembrance, Wreaths Across America is committed to educating the younger generation about the value of freedom and the importance of honoring those who have served. The organization partners with schools and youth groups to instill a sense of gratitude and respect for the sacrifices made by veterans.

Placing wreaths is not just an individual endeavor but a communal one. Wreaths Across America brings people together from all walks of life, fostering a sense of unity and shared purpose. This collective effort emphasizes the interconnectedness of communities and the shared responsibility to remember and honor our nation's heroes.

Wreaths Across America has grown from a small, local initiative to a national movement that touches the lives of countless individuals each year. It serves as a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by the men and women of the military. It provides an opportunity for communities to come together in remembrance and gratitude. As the wreaths are placed on the graves of veterans each December, they serve as symbols of respect, appreciation, and a commitment to never forget those who have served our country.

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# WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



The 2023 Wreaths Across America event stops on the week-long escort to Arlington. Please note that three public events will be held daily, Sunday–Thursday – morning (9 a.m. hour), noontime, and evening (5 p.m. hour). The schedule is subject to change,

### Sunday, Dec. 10

- Escort departs Harrington, Maine, and slows for a parade through Milbridge at approximately 8:30 a.m.
- Travel Route 1 to 1A to the morning event at Ellsworth YMCA, located at 238 State St, Ellsworth
- Travel Route 1 for a parade through Belfast to Bank of America located at 11 Schoodic Dr., Belfast
- Travel Route 3 to Route 32 to 17 to 226 to 126 to the afternoon event at Gardiner Middle School located at 161 Cobbossee Ave.
- Travel 295 to the Freeport exit, travel through the town, and back on to 295 to the evening event at Cheverus High School located at 267 Ocean Ave. in Portland.

### Monday, Dec. 11

- Depart Portland and travel to the morning event at York High School at 1 Robert Stevens Dr., in York.
  - WAA Mobile Education Exhibit will be set up and open to the public to visit at York High School throughout the morning.
- Travel to American Legion Post #279 in Auburn, Mass., for a noontime event at 88 Bancroft St.
- Travel to Exeter West Greenwich High School at 930 Nooseneck Hill Rd., West Greenwich, R.I., for an evening event.
  - WAA Mobile Education Exhibit will be open to the public to visit throughout the afternoon at the high school.

### Tuesday, Dec. 12

- Travel to Veteran's Park in Southbury, Conn., for the morning event.
  - WAA Mobile Education Exhibit is tentatively scheduled to be set up and open to the public to visit throughout the morning at the community park.
- Travel to Legion Park on Main St., in Elmsford, New York, for the afternoon event.
- Travel to Jonathan Dayton High School at 139 Mountain Ave., Springfield, N.J.
  - WAA Mobile Education Exhibit will be set up and open to the public to visit throughout the afternoon at the high school.

### Wednesday, Dec. 13

- Travel to Liberation Memorial – Liberty State Park, Jersey City, New Jersey
- Travel to New Jersey Veterans Memorial for a noontime event. Memorial is located at 1 Memorial Ln., in Holmdel, N.J.
  - WAA Mobile Education Exhibit will be set up and open to the public to visit throughout the morning at this location.
- Travel to Senior Center Bordentown Township, New Jersey

### Thursday, Dec. 14

- Travel to Delaware County Veterans Memorial, located at 4599 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, Pa., for the morning event.
  - WAA Mobile Education Exhibit will be set up and open to the public to visit throughout the morning at this location.
- Travel to Lorewood Grove Elementary for a noontime event. The school is located at 820 Mapleton Ave, Middletown, Del.
- Travel to Harrington Fire Department at 20 Clark St., Harrington, Del.
  - WAA Mobile Education Exhibit will be set up and open to the public to visit throughout the afternoon at this location
- The evening event will be held at the American Legion Post #278 located at 800 Romancoke Rd, Stevensville, Md.

### Friday, Dec. 15

Wreath-laying ceremonies will be held at the following D.C.

Monuments throughout the morning:

- Vietnam Wall
- World WWII Memorial
- Korean War Monument
- Pentagon 9/11 Memorial

A private event for invited guests will be held in the evening at the Crystal Gateway Marriott in Crystal City, Va. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. and will be livestreamed on Wreaths Across America Radio and our Official Facebook Page.

### Saturday, Dec. 16

- Gates open at Arlington National Cemetery at 8 a.m. – wreath laying will occur throughout the cemetery until the noon placement at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier concludes the event.

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## FUN FACT



Oregon is No. 1 in the United States for Christmas tree farms. The fir tree is even represented on Oregon's state flag. Oregon grows nearly 4 million Christmas trees yearly (that's 30% of all Christmas trees in the U.S.).

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National Association of Independent Truckers

## WHO'S HUNGRY?

# M&M's Magic Bars



*quick and easy classic goes over the top for the holidays*

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 stick of unsalted butter, melted, plus more for buttering the dish
- 14 chocolate graham crackers
- One 14-ounce can of sweetened condensed milk
- One 10-ounce bag of mint chocolate chips
- 1 cup cocktail peanuts, coarsely chopped
- 2 cups mini marshmallows
- 1/2 cup red and green M&M's
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped candy canes
- 1/4 cup red and green sprinkles



### M&M's SNACKABLE FACTS

The name comes from the last names of the candy company's founders, Forrest Mars and William Murrie. The name has stayed the same since the candy was introduced in 1941. ... The iconic 'm' was stamped in the middle of each candy to ensure customers could differentiate them from copycats. ... M&M's were the first candy in space, chosen by the shuttle astronauts as part of their food supply.

### DIRECTIONS

Position an oven rack in the center of the oven and preheat to 350 degrees F.

Line a 9-by-13-inch baking dish with foil, leaving a 2-inch overhang on both sides. Butter the foil.

Pulse the graham crackers into fine crumbs in a food processor. Add the melted butter and pulse to combine (the mixture should hold together when squeezed).

Transfer the mixture to the prepared baking dish and press it into the bottom in an even layer, using the bottom of a measuring cup to help.

Pour the sweetened condensed milk over the crumbs. Sprinkle the chocolate chips, peanuts, marshmallows, M&M's, candy canes, and sprinkles over the condensed milk.

Bake until the sides are golden brown and begin to pull away from the baking dish, 30 to 35 minutes. Let cool completely, about 1 hour.

Using the foil liner as handles, lift the bars from the baking dish; remove the foil. Cut into 24 bars.

## FUN FACT



Christmas is one of the safest holidays during which to drive. Part of the reason is the weather; road conditions are likely poor, meaning drivers know to be more careful. However, it's also safer due to law enforcement. Many who typically would drive under the influence choose not to because they are more likely to get caught.

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# NAVIGATING THE HOLIDAYS SAFELY

The holiday season is a time of joy, celebration, and, for many, travel. Whether it's to visit family and friends or embark on a winter getaway, highways become bustling thoroughfares filled with vehicles eager to reach their destinations. In the festive cheer, it's crucial to emphasize the importance of highway awareness. By staying vigilant and practicing safe driving habits, we can ensure that our journeys are memorable and accident-free.



### Increased Traffic Volume

One of the most significant factors during the holiday season is the surge in traffic volume. With countless individuals hitting the road simultaneously, drivers must be extra cautious. Long lines at toll booths, congested highways, and sudden changes in traffic flow can all contribute to a higher risk of accidents. Increased highway awareness helps drivers navigate these challenges and make informed decisions to ensure everyone's safety.

### Weather Challenges

Winter weather can pose additional risks during holiday travel. Snow, ice, and rain can create slippery road conditions, reducing visibility and traction. Drivers must be aware of weather forecasts, adjust their driving speed accordingly, and be prepared for sudden weather changes. Highway awareness ensures drivers are alert to changing road conditions and can adapt their driving habits to match the weather.

### Fatigue and Distractions

Long hours on the road and the excitement of the holiday season can contribute to driver fatigue. Tiredness impairs reaction times and decision-making skills, increasing the likelihood of accidents. Additionally, distractions such as mobile phones, navigation systems, or even engaging conversations with passengers can divert a driver's attention from the road. Awareness of these potential distractions and staying focused on driving are crucial for preventing accidents.

### Roadwork and Construction

Many highway authorities use the holiday season for road maintenance and construction projects. These activities can lead to lane closures, detours, and altered traffic patterns. Drivers must stay informed about potential roadwork on their route and be prepared for unexpected changes. By being aware of construction zones, drivers can navigate them safely, reducing the risk of accidents and delays.

### Emergency Preparedness

Highway awareness also involves being prepared for emergencies. This includes having a well-maintained vehicle, carrying essential supplies like a first aid kit, and knowing how to respond to breakdowns or accidents. Being proactive in emergency preparedness can make a significant difference in ensuring a safe and smooth journey during the holiday season.

As we embark on holiday travels, let's prioritize highway awareness to make our journeys festive and safe. By staying vigilant, adapting to changing conditions, and being prepared for the unexpected, we can reduce the risk of accidents and contribute to a season filled with joy and shared memories rather than road-related mishaps.

Remember, the gift of safety keeps on giving. Safe travels!



## FUN FACT



The winter solstice marks the shortest day and longest night of the year in the Northern Hemisphere. The winter solstice occurs on Thursday, Dec. 21, marking the first day of winter.

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## WORD SEARCH

T R M M E R R Y J O V A F N E W Y E A R M J I L S  
H O Z Y R Z C H E E R C N V M R E F V A M J P U A  
K S P J U H L L H W S F M A J N B B M D G U E L A  
J H L V U S O Z V Z L A X Q C N N H G L G G A X G  
P X G E L C R L Q G A M M F L H A K G H H E C W P  
G Q S O I Q H Y I M Z I N Q R M T Y B K O W E Q P  
Y R L F X G N R C D I L N E W M I K W I N T E R D  
B O I P S Y H K I W A Y J T R K V Q E F W B J Q D  
H J G S N H X Q D S W Y U P G J I M E T S P M W C  
J R H B O X T W G X T O H N R U T T C O T L D X F  
G K T D W D X L W M Y M J O A C Y R A Q Y B E V H  
J U S J X C E Z G J L L A L T Z L E R K G I C T J  
X M Y G I P Y C W Z R U R S I M H I O K H Q E R I  
P A C F R Z Q L O N Y C N J T C T N L S A B M E N  
C I J E D R C S J R C A V E U Y H D M A P I B E G  
Z T Z D L N R J E A A T Q F D O T E F N P X E G L  
P O E G L E E T Y A K T Z V E G V E E T I K R I E  
S D J K N V B W A N S W I K T K R R S A N C Q F T  
K H I Z B S P R I G K O A O N Y I N T C E O W T Y  
P R E S E N T S A L M F N N N L F O I L S O E S L  
O G K W V A O T P T L T C N Z S L A V A S K R D Y  
Z V L V G U N S T W E Z L T D A P F E U N I E K N  
G Y M Q Z N S G M G R C M A F J A K H S A E A Q L  
C H A N U K K A H V R E M M U O J K Z J R S B I L  
J W F E A S T I Y S Z C H H Q Y T R A D I T I O N

- Decorations
- Tradition
- Hanukkah
- Presents
- New Year
- Kwanzaa
- Lights
- Family
- Cheer
- Santa Claus
- Feast
- Happiness
- Nativity
- Celebrate
- Cookies
- Season
- Sleigh
- Christmas
- Gratitude
- Reindeer
- December
- Festive
- Jingle
- Winter
- Holiday
- Joy
- Gifts
- Tree
- Carol
- Snow
- Peace
- Merry

## FUN FACT



Queen Victoria sent the first official Christmas card in 1843 - the same year Charles Dickens wrote *A Christmas Carol*.

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## OUR WISH TO YOU ...



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS

*National Association of Independent Truckers*

2023

*Best wishes for a  
joyful holiday season  
and a happy New Year.*