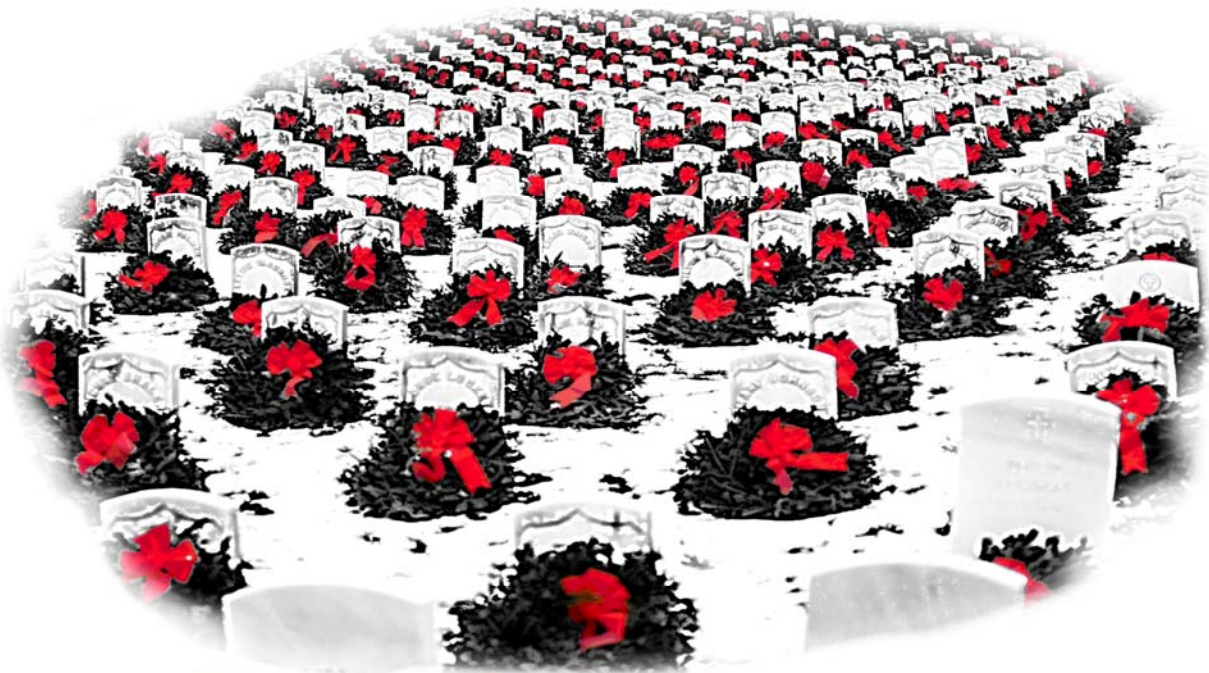


Maine Funeral Directors Association



2010 MFDA Wreaths Across America Tour



WREATHS-ACROSS-AMERICA.ORG
REMEMBER - HONOR - TEACH

*19th Annual Wreaths Across America
Wreath Laying Ceremony*

Arlington National Cemetery

December 9 - 12, 2010

With Several Extra-Special Stops And Tours Along The Way

Thursday, December 9, 2010

- ◆ Depart Portland Jetport at 6:14 A.M. (also known as 0:dark30) via AirTran Flight 411, arriving at Baltimore-Washington International (BWI) Airport at 7:49 A.M. After deplaning and gathering our luggage from the baggage claim area, we will grab breakfast at Bill Bateman's Restaurant, a Baltimore favorite which is located in the main terminal. Truth be known, there's no sense in fighting the rush hour traffic.



- ◆ 9:30 A.M. - Following breakfast we will board our chartered motor coach that will be awaiting our arrival. If all goes as planned, our favorite driver, Travis will be with us again this year. Because so many people last year indicated that they wished they could have spent more time at the new Capitol Visitor Center, we're going back again this year. Our tour will commence at 11:00 A.M. Senator Olympia Snowe has graciously agreed to help us secure Senate Gallery Passes and hopes to join us for a photo shoot.



- ◆ Lunch on your own at the Capitol Visitor Center Restaurant. The restaurant, found on the lower level of the Visitor Center, offers meals and snacks that reflect the diverse bounty of America. A changing global table also is available. Prices are reasonable considering the venue.

- ◆ Following lunch, we're off to Washington's most interactive museum, the Newseum, which offers visitors an experience that blends five centuries of news history with up-to-the-second technology and hands-on exhibits. Visitors are said to "come away with a better understanding of news and the important role it plays in all of our lives."



- ◆ By the time we complete our tour of the Newseum, everyone should be ready to head to the hotel. Upon arrival at the hotel, room keys will be distributed on the bus and your luggage will already be in your room. As the evening will still be young, there will be time to relax, take a dip in the pool, or crash in the hotel lounge with friends to recapture some of the events of the day. Dinner will be on your own. My guess most tour participants will opt to stay in for the evening. The hotel has a delightful restaurant which should have something to tempt everyone's taste buds. However, if there is a group of individuals who find that they still are energized, they may wish to head off to Pentagon City for a little shopping. Pentagon City is just a hop, skip and jump away, and the hotel shuttle bus is always willing to drop you off. Others, however, may opt to call it a day.

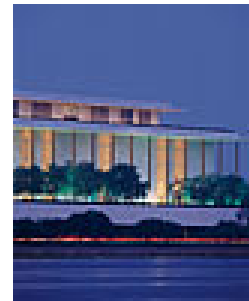
Friday, December 10, 2010

- ◆ Breakfast on your own. The hotel restaurant opens at 6:30 A.M.
- ◆ 8:00 A.M. - Board the bus and depart for Arlington National Cemetery (ANC), where we will hold a formal Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns at 9:15 A.M. Following the Wreath Laying Ceremony, it is hoped the Superintendent will be able to join us for a personalized tour of the cemetery. We can only hope he is not called away for a Congressional Hearing or involved with a service. Unfortunately, government employees are always at the beck and call of their superiors.



Friday, December 10, 2010 - Continued

- ◆ 10:45 A.M. - Depart ANC and head “to town,” also known as the Capitol City. In keeping with tradition and at the request of several former tour participants, we will return to the Capitol City Brewing Company for lunch. For our first timers, don’t let the name frighten you. The food is great, the prices are reasonable, and the facility has quite a history. Further, it is a great starting point for our afternoon tour. This year, Dr. Kathleen Bashian, a long-time resident of the Washington, DC metropolitan area will be our tour guide. Kathleen comes highly recommended as licensed professional guide and is a board member and co-chair of the education committee of the Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington, DC. Our tour will be based on the makeup of our tour participants. In other words, beside the “traditional sites,” Kathleen hopes to be able to share Washington beyond the beaten mall and to share the symbolic meaning behind those figures guarding the doorways and presiding within the pediments of our government along Federal Triangle.
- ◆ Dinner reservations have been made at the Old Ebbitt Grill, Washington’s oldest, and most historic saloon, founded in 1856. You will be able to order directly from the menu as dinner will be, as they say, “on your own.”
- ◆ Immediately following dinner we are off for an evening at the John F. Kennedy Center For The Performing Arts (AKA - The Kennedy Center) where Marvin Hamlisch, the National Symphony Orchestra Pops Series, Santa and other special guests will present “Happy Holidays.” Curtain time is at 8:00 P.M. Dress is business casual.



Saturday, December 11, 2010 - The Reason We Come ...

- ◆ Saturday promises to be another busy day and will start early. The hotel restaurant will open this morning at 6:00 A.M. for our group breakfast.
- ◆ 7:15 A.M. - Board motor coach and depart for Arlington National Cemetery.



- ◆ Participate in the 19th Annual Wreaths Across America Wreath Laying Project wherein 20,000 wreaths will be placed on veterans’ graves in Arlington National Cemetery between 8:30 A.M. and 12:00 Noon.
- ◆ 12:15 P.M.- Board bus and return to the hotel.



Saturday, December 11, 2010 - Continued

- ◆ Free time. However, if there is enough interest, Joe Hagan of Joseph Gawler's Funeral Home has offered to set up a tour of the facility. Gawler's is known as one of Washington's most prestigious funeral firms, dating back to the late 1800s and is often referred to as the funeral home of presidents. Admittedly, the funeral home has conducted many high-profile funerals over the years.
- ◆ Dinner at Maggiano's Little Italy in upper Northwest Washington where a scrumptious family-style dinner will be served before we head off to the Washington, DC Temple of the Church of the Latter Day



Saints (Mormon Temple) in Silver Spring, Maryland for a breath-taking exhibit of international Christmas trees, international crèches, and the 33rd Festival of Lights, as well as inspiring Christmas program by the Mormon Choir of Washington, DC. If you aren't in the holiday spirit after visiting the Temple, you never will be.

- ◆ Return to the hotel by 10:00 P.M.

Sunday, December 12, 2010

- ◆ Think positive ... There will be no snow in Maine.
- ◆ Breakfast on your own, but be sure to keep it light as we will have a scrumptious lunch at a neighborhood Baltimore restaurant.
- ◆ Hotel checkout prior to 8:30 A.M.
- ◆ 8:30 A.M. - Board motor coach and depart the hotel for the last time. Travel to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception ~ "America's Catholic Church" ~ for a self-guided tour and Mass. The National Shrine is the largest Roman Catholic Church in the United States and North America and is one of the 10 largest churches in the world. Even if you are not Catholic you will be amazed by the history of The Shrine and its many chapels.



Sunday, December 12, 2010 - Continued

- ◆ 10:30 - Board motor coach for Baltimore, lunch at G & M Restaurant, home of huge portions and amazing crab cakes, and then off to the airport so we can work our way through the obligatory TSA security check and head home to Maine and the way life should be at 3:51 P.M. via AirTran Flight 414, arriving at the Portland Jetport at 5:13 P.M. Of note, we are returning to G & M Restaurant at the request of several of our previous tour participants. G & M is a local Baltimore favorite; nothing really fancy, but just plain good food at reasonable rates and crab cakes that will knock your socks off!



While on the road, we will be housed at the
Sheraton National Hotel
900 South Orme Street
Arlington, Virginia 22204
703-521-1900

For a tour of the hotel and it's facilities, please visit:

<http://www.sheratonnational.com>

And So You Know ...

Airline fees are nonrefundable. You may view AirTran's policy regarding use of tickets at AirTran.com. Some penalties apply. Additionally, fees for ticketed events and group meals are non-refundable once we have given a count or purchased tickets.

Insofar as dress is concerned, business casual attire is appropriate for all events, even the theatre, but **not** the Saturday Wreath Laying. This is the one time when you will want to be attired in warm clothing and jeans or clothing that can take a beating as we don't want you to ruin your good clothing with sap from the wreaths or a little mud if the weather is inclement. You should also remember that substantial shoes or boots are in order as you will be traversing cemetery grounds where the ground is not necessarily level. Gloves are essential. Women should forget about handbags — in other words, bring only what is absolutely necessary for the wreath laying event Saturday morning. Cameras are always good, but be sure they aren't going to be a burden.

Not to be confused with Saturday's activities at Arlington National Cemetery, please remember that jeans are **not** appropriate for the Friday tour of Arlington National Cemetery as we will hold a formal Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns. This is a very solemn and dignified event.

Prior to departure, you will be provided with a list of helpful tour tips; i.e., items that are prohibited in the Capitol and Senate, when and where to assemble, reminders not to travel with a ton of jewelry, in other words, anything that you should know to make your trip more enjoyable.



So You Know ...

Since it is impossible to report on the success of the 2010 Wreaths Across America project at this writing, here are just a few statistics from the 2009 Wreaths Across America project: It's mind boggling! As amazing as 2009 was, 2010 promises to be even more exciting as it is known that sponsorships for 2010 are ahead of projections with an anticipated goal of 300,000 wreaths to be placed on the graves of our Nation's heroes. With your help, 2010 will be even more promising as we gather to ...



Remember the fallen;

Honor those who serve; and

Teach the children the price of freedom.

- ◆ 164,000 wreaths were placed at 427 locations, as well as 24 off-shore locations.
- ◆ 40 state house ceremonies were carried out
- ◆ 138,753 wreaths were sponsored
- ◆ 25,247 wreaths were donated by Worcester Wreaths and of this number, 17,000+ went to Arlington National Cemetery
- ◆ 18 trucking companies donated 32 trucks to help deliver the wreaths nationwide
- ◆ UPS shipped 1,000 packages of wreaths
- ◆ FedEx donated 1,153 packages of wreaths
- ◆ 868 groups signed up as fund raisers

It is hoped that you will join us for this unique experience.

There's no other way to put it — it will be an experience you will long remember!



