

# Mary Draper Chapter

## Wreaths Across America Comes to a Wichita Cemetery for First Time

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Members of the Mary Draper Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) are planning a ceremony and wreath laying event to honor veterans at 11 a.m., Saturday, December 16, 2017 at Calvary Cemetery, 610 S. Vassar St., Wichita, KS.

The wreath-laying ceremony is both a local and national project with Wreaths Across America, a non-profit organization that honors Americans' commitment to our fallen soldiers that *"we will never forget the sacrifices made for our freedom"*.

The ceremony will feature the Legion Riders, the Honor Guard from McConnell AFB, several active duty and veteran war heroes, and elected officials. Following the ceremony, volunteers will decorate veteran's grave with 496 wreaths that were donated during the year. Star Lumber has donated the storage, transportation, and delivery of the wreaths.

In the past, only 2 cemeteries in Kansas participated in this annual event. To bring this honor to our local veterans, the Mary Draper Chapter of DAR submitted Calvary Cemetery as a new location, and it was approved earlier this year. Each wreath is a symbol of honor, respect and victory. The wreath is made of 10 bouquets of evergreens, each one representing a value held dear to every American war hero. Evergreens represent longevity and endurance, and the red bow attached represents great sacrifice.

Morrill Worcester, Founder of Wreaths Across America, stated "This year, when you place a wreath on a veterans grave, you will know it is not just a wreath. It's your personal gift to an American hero, and you'll swell with pride and have a tear in our eye knowing you've done something special for our veterans and their families. God bless our veterans and God bless America."

Whether you live East or West, we encourage all to become involved. We need volunteers to help us place the wreaths and the local media to cover this historic event.

