



AHEPA

Washington Area Family Chapters

Arlington Cemetery Memorial Day

Wreath Laying Procedures

Presentation

Purpose

- **To familiarize participants about Arlington National Cemetery**
- **To explain the procedures for honoring veterans who are interred at Arlington National Cemetery**

History of AHEPA Wreath Laying

- Started the annual Memorial Day pilgrimage to Arlington Cemetery in 1949.
- Initially we had a small numbers of gravesites.
- Gravesites and identities of the fallen have steadily increased.
- Most Gravesites identified by chance encounters with Greek names
- Current number of Gravesites is **518**

Arlington National Cemetery

- **1 of 164 Cemeteries throughout the country**
- **Includes graves of 280,000 veterans and spouses**
- **Veterans buried with Military Honors**
- **Monuments throughout the Cemetery-Landmarks**
- **On Memorial Day all Cemetery Gravestones are decorated with a small U.S. Flag**
- **Cemetery Sections identified with prominent signs.**
- **Gravestone markings**
 - **Name (Some Unknown)**
 - **Four digit Grave Number**
 - **Date of birth and death**
 - **Cross/Star of David**

Arlington National Cemetery



Entrance gates will be open and visitors permitted in the Cemetery every day throughout the year during the following hours:

October through March
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

April through September
8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

AHEPA Wreath Laying Plans

- **Established 10 Cemetery Regions (including Columbarium)**
- **Each Region includes 1 or more Cemetery Sections**
- **Plotted Grave locations and numbers on enlarged Section Charts using coordinates**
- **Participants assigned based on number of Gravesites in each Region.**

AHEPA Wreath Laying Plans

Numbers of Gravesites

• Binder 1 (Section 18)	52	(10 %)
• Binder 2 (Sections 8,11,21, 25, 34)	44	(8.5%)
• Binder 3 (Sections 3,6,17,18B,35)	42	(8.1%)
• Binder 4 (Sections 1,4,13,15,36,37,38,46)	59	(11.4%)
• Binder 5 (Sections 28,41,42,43,49)	39	(7.5%)
• Binder 6 (Sections 2,7,9,30,32,33,48,64,65)	65	(12.6%)
• Binder 7 (Sections 10,12,39,59,60)	54	(10.4%)
• Binder 8 (Sections 31,51,52,54,64,66,67,68,69,70)	22	(4.3%)
• Binder 9	50	(9.7%)
• Binder 10 (Columbarium)	91	(17.6%)
GRAND TOTAL	518	

Cemetery Area Binders

Contents

- Overall Arlington Cemetery Chart
- Letter of Approval for Cemetery Access with Vehicle
- Large **AHEPA** sign for car windshield
- Wreath Laying procedures and Conduct in the Cemetery
- Names/Grave Numbers/Section/Coordinates of Interred Honorees for each Binder
- Cemetery Quadrant Charts with location of Honorees in each Section (Red Arrow and the Grave number)
- Blank Sheet for listing of new Graves found in each Section
- Instructions for Return of the Binder

Wreath Laying Procedures

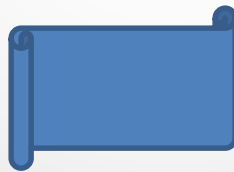
- Insure that you are assigned to a Cemetery Area (Binder). Know the name of the Team Leader.
- Pick up the Box Containing the wreaths for your Cemetery Area
- Review the Binder Contents
- Proceed to the Cemetery using Rock Creek Parkway to Memorial Drive
- Stop for identification by the Guards. Show the Authorizing Letter
- Display the **AHEPA** sign on the car windshield
- Determine the order of Cemetery Sections to be visited
- Proceed to the first Section and stop near area of the first plotted gravesite.
- Inspect Gravestones to identify grave number nearest to the gravesite sought. Grave numbers may not be consecutive.
- Use any nearby monuments or streets as landmarks to help locate gravesites.
- *Locate each assigned Grave number. This is a challenging task.*
- Confirm that the Grave number corresponds with the name.
- Place wreath around the small flag.
- Check Grave Listing for any pink highlighted questions from last year
- Salute/Offer the sign of the Cross/Offer a prayer to the Honoree.
- Restore any fallen flags.
- Identify any gravesites with Greek sounding names. Record the Section, Grave number and full name.
- Consider taking pictures of hard to find Gravesite locations including landmarks

Conduct in the Cemetery

- Dress in casual attire and comfortable shoes
- Follow the guidance shown in signs
- Speak in normal voice
- Avoid littering the grounds
- Be careful of uneven ground to avoid twisted ankles
- Yield to pedestrians, “Rolling Thunder” bikes and ongoing funerals
- Stand at attention when “Taps” is played at a funeral.
- Wreaths should not touch the gravestone
- Restore any fallen Flags in front of Gravestones

Thank You

- **Thank you in advance for your contribution to this patriotic and solemn event.**
- **We are honoring Americans of Hellenic descent who died for our country**



Return your Binders with your comments.