



# MEDIA RELEASE

OFFICE OF COUNTY MAYOR TIM BURCHETT

400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Michael Grider Jennifer Linginfelter November 10, 2015  
215-4750 office 215-4579 office  
363-8681 cell 803-5509 cell

## **Knox Wreaths Across America donations near \$30K thanks to Perceptics Foundation, Pilot Flying J**

*Knoxville, Tenn.* — Just a few weeks after Mayor Burchett launched his 2015 Wreaths Across America effort, fundraising totals are nearing the \$30,000 mark, thanks to a generous donations from the public, Perceptics Foundation, Pilot Flying J and others.

The most recent fundraising tally for Mayor Burchett's wreaths campaign is just more than \$28,300, which is enough to sponsor nearly 1,900 wreaths at the \$15 per wreath rate. However, Wreaths Across America offers a 3-for-2 fundraising option, which brings to total number of wreaths sponsored so far to more than 2,800.

Last week, Perceptics Foundation announced that they were making a \$15,000 donation to the local Wreaths Across America in order to ensure that every headstone at the New East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery on Gov. John Sevier Highway receives a wreath. Since many people have a personal desire to sponsor a wreath at a specific cemetery, anyone still wishing to sponsor a wreath at Gov. John Sevier can do so. Any remaining funds from the Perceptics Foundation's donation will be used to sponsor wreaths at one of the other two veterans cemeteries.

This week, Pilot Flying J contributed \$5,000 to the Wreaths Across America campaign. This donation will be used to sponsor wreaths to be placed at the Old East Tennessee State Veterans Cemetery on Lyons View Pike.

In addition to these donations, individuals and companies have come together to contribute more than \$8,000 to Wreaths Across America in Knox County. Some of those donors are local businesses, retired veterans or service members' relatives.

"This truly is a communitywide effort. No wreaths sponsorship is too small," said Mayor Burchett. "For the families of our military heroes, it means so much to see a wreath on their loved ones' graves this time of year. I know it meant a lot to my mother to see a wreath laid on my dad's grave. I hope other corporations, foundations and individuals will help honor our fallen veterans by donating to Wreaths Across America."

There are more than 15,000 veterans buried at the three veteran cemetery locations in Knox County. Anyone wanting to sponsor a wreath can do so by visiting <http://www.knoxcounty.org> and clicking on the Wreaths Across America banner.

The deadline for online donations is Nov. 30, and the deadline for donations made by check is Nov. 23. Checks should be made payable to "Wreaths Across America" and mailed to 400 Main Street, Suite 615, Knoxville, TN 37902. The wreaths will be placed on the graves on Dec. 12.

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