

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 29, 2021

### **BRISTOL HILLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY HONORS VETERANS FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON**

To honor the area's military veterans during the holiday season, the Bristol Hills Historical Society will conduct two wreath-laying ceremonies on Saturday, Dec. 18. Through the back-to-back ceremonies – at noon at the Levi Corser Park in Bristol Center, 6702 County Road 32, and at 2 p.m. the same day at the South Bristol Town Hall, 6500 Gannett Hill Road – the Historical Society pays tribute to the many veterans interred in the two towns' cemeteries.

The ceremonies are timed to coincide with National Wreaths Across America Day, a gathering that takes place every year in more than 2,500 local, state and national cemeteries in all 50 states in which a wreath is laid on every veteran's grave and the veterans' names are read aloud. The Bristol Hills ceremonies are not official participants in that national event, though the organizers hope to build local interest in preparation for joining the national event in 2022.

During the holiday season, the national WAA organization said in its announcement, "In many homes, there is an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the holiday season."

The local organizer of the Historical Society's events is Society board member A.J. Magnan, Commander, U.S. Navy (Retired), who said he hopes this year's events in Bristol and South Bristol lead in future years to wreath-laying on all veterans' graves in at least one cemetery in Bristol and South Bristol. "For centuries, Bristol Valley families have spent the holiday season privately remembering their own sons and daughters who left home to serve our country in times of war and peace," Magnan said. "The entire community should join them in this gesture of solidarity and respect."

In 2020, approximately 1.7 million veterans' wreaths were placed by volunteers on headstones at 2,557 participating locations around the country, with each name said out loud. This year, even more cemeteries have registered to participate.

The Bristol Hills Historical Society invites all local residents, but particularly veterans, their families, and the towns' current service members who are home for the holidays. For more information about the Bristol and South Bristol wreath laying ceremonies, contact the Bristol Hills Historical Society at [bhswreaths@gmail.com](mailto:bhswreaths@gmail.com).

Wreaths Across America is on the web at [wreathscrossamerica.org](http://wreathscrossamerica.org).

The Bristol Hills Historical Society is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that was formed in 2020 through the merger of the historical societies of Bristol and South Bristol, N.Y. It cares for two of the region's most distinctive historic buildings, the 1923 Grange Hall in Bristol Springs, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, and the 1846 Methodist Episcopal Church in Bristol Center. The society's website at [bristolhillshistory.org](http://bristolhillshistory.org) and Facebook page at [facebook.com/bhhistorical](https://facebook.com/bhhistorical) provide calendars of upcoming history presentations and other events, articles on local history, and a convenient way to become an annual donor at levels starting at \$15 for individuals and \$30 for families.

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