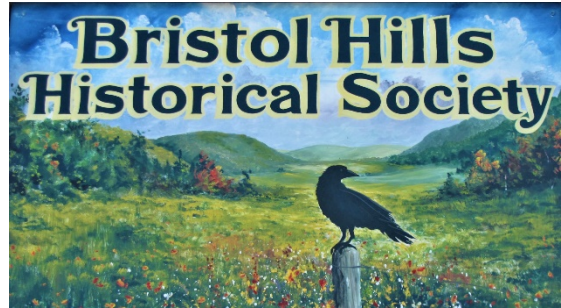


**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 16, 2023



## **Four Bristol Hills Cemeteries Join National ‘Wreaths Across America’ Campaign to Honor Veterans**

In its second year as part of the National Wreaths Across America Day, the Bristol Hills Historical Society has expanded from two to four local cemeteries where wreaths will be laid on every veteran’s grave to remember them and their families during the holiday season.

The Historical Society is seeking sponsors to pay for the fresh evergreen wreaths that will be delivered shortly before ceremonies at the cemeteries on Dec. 16. Volunteers also are needed to help lay the wreaths.

A total of 77 veterans, whose service dates back as far as the Revolutionary War, are buried in the Bristol Center and Vincent Hill Cemeteries in Bristol and the Coye and Wilder Cemeteries in South Bristol. These four cemeteries will be among more than 4,000 nationwide where wreaths will be placed and each veteran’s name will be read aloud.

The local organizer of the Historical Society’s events is Society board member A.J. Magnan, a retired U.S. Navy officer who settled with his family in Bristol in 2010. “For over 200 years, Bristol Valley families remember their own sons and daughters who left home to serve our country in times of war and peace,” Magnan said. “This year, we hope the entire community will join them in this gesture of solidarity and respect.”

Sponsoring one wreath costs \$17, with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the work of the volunteer-run Historical Society. The Historical Society researches the military service of the people buried in our many local cemeteries. In recognition of the extraordinary local support for the 2022 Wreaths Across America program in Bristol, the Society expanded its goals and added the graves of local veterans buried in the Vincent Hill and Wilder Cemeteries. These include some of the oldest and most significant local gravesites, including Revolutionary War veteran and South Bristol founder Gamaliel Wilder.

For the past three decades, the Wreaths Across America project places millions of wreaths on veterans’ graves in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and overseas. The wreaths are hand-crafted in Columbia Falls, Me., of all-American balsam and hand-tied with a red velvet bow.

The local Dec. 16 ceremony will take place at noon at the Society’s historic Bristol Center Methodist Church located next to the Bristol Center Cemetery, 4471 State Route 64. At the completion of the ceremony, volunteers will be asked to place wreaths at Bristol Center, or travel the short distances to place wreaths in the other cemeteries: Vincent Hill (Vincent Hill Rd) in Bristol, or the two South Bristol

cemeteries, Coye (Route 21 at Bopple Hill Road) and Wilder (State Route 64). The events are free and open to everyone.

To sponsor wreaths and volunteer to help lay wreaths, go to [bristolhillshistory.org/honoring-our-veterans](http://bristolhillshistory.org/honoring-our-veterans). Once all 77 veterans' wreaths are sponsored, other wreath sponsorships benefit both the Bristol Hills Historical Society and other local sponsored locations such as the Overaker Cemetery in Middlesex, South Farmington Friends Cemetery, Boughton Hill (Victor) and the New York State Veterans Cemetery – Finger Lakes in Seneca County.

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. Wreaths Across America is on the web at [wreathscrossamerica.org](http://wreathscrossamerica.org) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/WAAHQ](https://facebook.com/WAAHQ)

The Bristol Hills Historical Society 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 and the 1846 Methodist Episcopal Church in Bristol Center, both of which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. 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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ATTACHED: Photos of wreaths at Bristol and South Bristol cemeteries; Wreaths Across America logo

For more information:

A.J. Magnan

[bhswreaths@gmail.com](mailto:bhswreaths@gmail.com)