

Councilwoman Cartright Participates in Wreaths Across America at Calverton National Cemetery

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Farmingville, NY - On Saturday, December 13, Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright joined hundreds of volunteers from across Long Island at Calverton National Cemetery for the annual "Wreaths Across America" event. Representatives from various branches of the United States Military participated in the opening ceremony before volunteers were directed to different parts of the vast cemetery to lay wreaths on the graves of WWI Veterans who were the focus of this year's event. Michael Picerno, Cemetery Director, emphasized the importance of honoring WWI veterans, some of whom may have been born in the 1800s, and may be largely forgotten by the public due to length of time since the war.

The National Wreaths Across America program was developed to further the importance of recognizing veterans and those who died in the line of duty. The mission, "Remember, Honor, Teach," is demonstrated through annual wreath laying ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as other veterans' cemeteries throughout the United States and overseas.

"It was very gratifying to see so many volunteers assembled for this important service to our deceased veterans and to our community," stated Councilwoman Cartright. "As the daughter of a veteran, I understand that serving in the military is a tremendous sacrifice which can come with great risk. All of our veterans deserve our gratitude, service, support, and remembrance."

The Councilwoman and Suffolk County Legislator Sarah Anker joined members of local Boy Scout Troop 362 of Centereach in laying wreaths graveside.

The event, which has been held for six consecutive years at Calverton, has continued to grow and organizers hope that in the coming years they will have sponsorship for wreaths that will cover the majority of veteran graves. For more information about the national program, please visit <http://www.wreathsacrossamerica.org>.

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