

TOWN OF VERNON

Office of the Mayor

14 Park Place • Vernon, CT 06066

Tel: (860) 870-3600 • Fax: (860) 870-3580

www.Vernon-CT.gov



MEDIA ADVISORY

December 16, 2021

Press Contact:

David Owens, Communications Specialist

Desk (860) 870-3574

Cell (860) 494-5973



Daniel A. Champagne
Mayor

Michael J. Purcaro
Town Administrator

Dawn R. Maselek
Assistant Town Administrator

Town of Vernon Honors Veterans at Annual Wreaths Across America Observance

Saturday, December 18th at 12:00 pm at Grove Hill Cemetery

(VERNON, Connecticut) – The Town of Vernon and the Vernon Cemetery Department will join with Wreaths Across America to honor veterans and those who have given their lives in service to our nation. The ceremony will begin promptly at noon this Saturday, December 18th, at the Lugg Memorial Field in the Grove Hill Cemetery located at 22 Cemetery Avenue in Vernon. The public is invited to attend.

Veterans and volunteers will place wreaths on memorials to honor members of the armed forces, the U.S. Merchant Marine, and prisoners of war and those still missing in action. The ceremony will occur at the same time wreaths are being placed on the graves of those buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia, and more than 3,000 cemeteries across the nation.

“Grove Hill Cemetery is sacred ground and contains the remains of men and women who have served our nation from the Civil War until today,” Vernon Mayor Dan Champagne. “Wreaths Across America asks us to remember our fallen service members, to honor those who have served and to teach young people about the value of freedom. We are pleased to do that here in Vernon.”

Lugg Memorial Field is a special section at Grove Hill Cemetery that is set aside for veterans and their spouses.

A team of volunteers, led by former Town Council Member Polly Schaefer, coordinates each year’s Wreaths Across America ceremony.

Wreaths Across America traces its origin to 1992, when Morrill Worcester of the Worcester Wreath Co. of Harrington, Maine, had a number of surplus wreaths as the holiday season was drawing to a close. Recalling a boyhood trip to Washington, D.C., which included a visit to the sacred grounds of Arlington National Cemetery,

Worcester contacted his senator and donated 5,000 wreaths to be placed at headstones in an older section of the cemetery, where visitors were less frequent.

What began as one man's gesture has grown into a national movement. In 2006 Wreaths Across America was formed as a non-profit corporation and works with local organizers on wreath-laying events across the nation. The organization's goal is to show gratitude and appreciation to veterans during the holiday season. For more information, visit: www.wreathsassamerica.org.

Lugg Memorial Field at Grove Hill Cemetery was created to accommodate requests from veterans and their families for additional cemetery space. It was named in honor of Harry H. Lugg, a World War II Navy veteran, former state legislator and public servant from Rockville.

Vernon's Cemetery Department manages five historic cemeteries and encourages people to visit them to take in the history and natural beauty. In addition to Grove Hill Cemetery in the Rockville section of Vernon, the Cemetery Department manages the Old Burial Ground of North Bolton on Bamford Road, Elmwood Cemetery off Cemetery Road, Valley Falls Cemetery off Valley Falls Road and the Southwest Cemetery in the Dobsonville section of Vernon.

"Our cemeteries are not only places for families to memorialize their loved ones, but for all people to find a place of respite," said Travis Clark, Vernon's Cemetery Superintendent. "We work hard to make our cemeteries beautiful places where people can find solitude and silence, but also get a sense of the history of our community and those who came before us. We also hope people enjoy the natural environment and appreciate the architecture."

About the Town of Vernon

The Town of Vernon is a celebrated place to live, work and visit. From its beautiful parks and lakes, to its vast trails and historic homes and buildings, Vernon is a resilient and thriving community that promotes the health and wellbeing of its residents and values the natural environment. With a resident population of approximately 30,000 and occupying 18.03 square miles, Vernon combines a balanced appreciation of history, and a strong economic base for growth, both residential and commercial. Located 15 minutes east of the Connecticut capital of Hartford, and 25 miles from the City of Springfield, Massachusetts, the Town of Vernon is strategically located in "New England's Knowledge Corridor" with close proximity to some of the top colleges and universities in the country.

Designated a certified Sustainable Community, the Town of Vernon offers a wide range of benefits and services to its residents. The Town of Vernon is a full-service municipality that practices a management philosophy of continuous quality improvement. To learn more about the Town of Vernon, please call (860) 870- 3670 or visit www.vernon-ct.gov.

###