

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1902**

October 12, 2016

The Honorable Eric K. Fanning  
Secretary of the Army  
101 Army Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Secretary Fanning,

What started as a few dozen volunteers laying wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery has turned into a national tradition and annual event that attracts thousands and thousands of families and individuals each year to lay more than 225,000 wreaths at the cemetery. In addition, more than a million wreaths are laid at more than 1,000 veteran cemeteries across the United States.

Wreaths Across America was started by Mainers Morrill and Karen Worcester in 1992 when their Maine wreath business had a surplus of wreaths at the end of the holiday season. Morrill, recalling a boyhood visit to Arlington National Cemetery, decided to donate 5,000 wreaths to be laid on graves at the cemetery.

After 25 years, the annual tradition continues to be a great success. To honor its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we urge you to approve the request for the Commemorative Air Force to conduct a World War II aircraft flyover of Arlington National Cemetery as a way to acknowledge our missing American Service Members who never made it home and serve as a symbolic gesture to all of the families of the fallen soldiers that lay in Arlington National Cemetery, as well as the many Veterans who attend the event each year.

This year's event will take place on Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup>. As you know, the Federal Aviation Administration/ Arlington National Cemetery/ Secretary of the Army must approve such a proposal and we urge you to consider this important request. Please contact Kate Renz in Congressman Poliquin's office at (202) 225-6306 with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Bruce Poliquin  
Member of Congress

Mike Pompeo  
Member of Congress

Carlos Carbelo  
Member of Congress

Marc Veasey  
Member of Congress

*Walter B. Jones*

Walter Jones  
Member of Congress

*Brian Babin*

Brian Babin  
Member of Congress

*Bill Huizenga*

Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress

*Chellie Pingree*

Chellie Pingree  
Member of Congress