

# Dodge

*The Dodge Company Proudly Presents  
the  
2018 Wreaths across America Tour*

*Arlington National Cemetery  
December 13-15, 2018*

*Celebrating The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Wreath Laying Project*



**WREATHS**  
— *across* —  
**AMERICA**

*Remember the fallen;  
Honor those who serve; and  
Teach the children the price of freedom.*

## ***Thursday, December 13, 2018 - We Begin Our Adventure!***

**As In 2017, There Are Options For Thursday's Adventures.**

If you are among Dodge's Wreaths across America Project veterans and have participated in an operational overview of the Charles Carson Center at Dover Air Force Base on one or more occasions, we have an alternative adventure to offer - an overview of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI's) National Training Academy, as well as a visit to the Quantico National Marine Corps Museum & Heritage Center.

The day starts early, but admittedly, we have a lot of ground to cover as we make our way from Arlington, Virginia to Dover, Delaware and the United States Port Mortuary, or to Quantico, Virginia and the FBI Academy and the National Marine Corps Museum.

Those traveling to Quantico will get to see a bit of Virginia's country side, as well as the traffic on Interstate I-95. Quantico is truly a bedroom community of metro DC.

The first stop in Quantico/Triangle, Virginia will be at The FBI National Training Academy. Following an operational overview of the Academy, it is hoped everyone will come away with a new understanding and appreciation of all the FBI does, the requirements to become an agent, as well as the language spoken on campus - acronyms! Without reservation, it can be said that the FBI is the strongest network of law enforcement leaders in the world.



Following lunch at the Clubs of Quantico, participants will be afforded a tour of the Quantico National Marine Corps Museum & Heritage Center where participants will learn the true meaning of *Semper Fidelis*. All reports from those who have visited the museum in the past refer to it as a not to be missed experience.

Participants traveling to Dover and the United States Port Mortuary will travel through parts of DC, historic Annapolis, across the Bay Bridge, and on to the Eastern Shore of Maryland. While we won't be stopping along the way, there is a lot of country to see, and you will have time to visit with old friends or, if you are a newcomer, to make new ones.

To be granted a private operational overview of the Charles C. Carson Center is a true honor and privilege, an event that will help everyone understand the dignity and respect afforded our Nation's Heroes on their final journey home. Our visit also will help to give true meaning and understanding to the remainder of the events of our journey and ultimately the Arlington Wreath Laying Project.



Upon arrival at the Carson Center, Col. Dawn Lancaster and the men and women charged with caring for our Nation's Fallen Heroes will give an in-depth explanation of the Dover mission and operations of this sacred facility. Even individuals who are not involved in the day-to-day practice of funeral service appreciate being a part of this event.

Lunch will be served on base. Don't fret, you won't be given MREs (Meals Ready To Eat), but will have an opportunity to **enjoy** a delightful buffet which is sure to satisfy all. More about this once your registration form has been received.

Plans also include a stop at the Joint Personal Effects Depot and with some luck, we are hopeful we will be granted an operational overview of the Armed Forces Medical Examiner's Office. This is iffy, but we can always hope!

The Joint Personal Effects Depot is the facility where the personal effects of killed, wounded or missing members from all military services including the Coast Guard, Department of Defense civilians and contractors, as well as embedded media are sent. These personal effects are photographed, inventoried, and prepared to be returned to their owners, or to their next of kin.

Finally, we will visit the Fisher House for Families of the Fallen. The Fisher House, which opened in 2010, offers high-quality, temporary lodging to the families of the fallen as they await the Dignified Transfer, the return of their loved one.



Admittedly, it will be a full day of learning, but one well worth your time and effort, as well as an opportunity we are certain you won't want to miss.

Whether you plan to go off to Quantico or Dover, plans call for everyone to arrive back at the hotel in time for the traditional Embassy Suites nightly cocktail reception. Dinner will be on your own, but we will have plenty of suggestions to offer as there are many delightful restaurants in the area.

## **Friday, December 14, 2018 - Another Great Day Is In Store!**

Rise and shine as early as you like. The hotel restaurant opens at 6:00 A.M. and you can enjoy a cooked-to-order breakfast before we start out for another great day. Unlike other years, we will not start the day with a continuing education program which will allow everyone a little more snooze time which is good as it will be a full day.

Though some things have changed, not everything has been changed, as we will be going on a narrated tour of the Capital City with our favorite docent, Dr. Kathleen Bashian following our departure from Arlington National Cemetery. We will visit the “tried and true” sites of the Nation’s Capital and the historic monuments that speak to our overall mission, that of honoring our Nation’s servicemen and women, past, present and future. This is a must for our first timers. But as our veteran participants know, there is always something new in the city each year to see, and no matter how many times you have visited the area with us, you will learn something new. Kathleen is a fount of information.

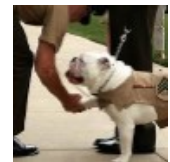


Sorry veteran participants, in follow-up of the great lunch this summer, we will be returning to Clyde’s of Gallery Place, located in the renewed Penn Quarter, just steps from Capital One Arena and Chinatown. In truth, Clydes of Gallery Place is an opulent homage to Washington and American sporting. Moreover, Clyde’s restaurants have been long-time Washington favorites. Again, there will be something to tempt the taste buds of all, and no difficult decisions will be have to be made months in advance!

After lunch, we will board our motor coach once again and continue our tour of the city as we work our way to 8<sup>th</sup> and I, as it is known by the locals. At 8<sup>th</sup> and I we will be greeted by some of the men and women of the oldest Marine Corps post in the nation -- Marine Corps Barracks ~ Washington. It is here that Bravo Company B is housed. The men and women of Bravo Company B are some of the Corps’ elite, those charged with executive ceremonial responsibilities, as well funeral details at Arlington National Cemetery and other cemeteries in and around the Nation’s Capital. With a little luck, we will meet one, perhaps two, of Sally B’s favorite Marines, Sgt. Chesty XIV or Recruit Chesty XV. Either Marine is sure to win the hearts of all.



As the sun begins to set, we will board our motor coach destined for our hotel. Once again, dinner will be on your own, but we have lots of suggestions to share with you for fantastic places to dine. Just ask.



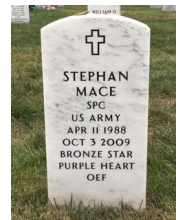
## **Saturday, December 15, 2018 - The Reason We Come ...**

No grumbling allowed! Saturday morning, the hotel’s restaurant will open for us at 5:30 A.M. so we will be ready for our most important day. And no, this is not a typo; we will board our motor coach at 6:30 A.M. and depart for Arlington National Cemetery and the staging area for the 2018 Wreaths across America Arlington Wreath Project. So there are no surprises for our newcomers, you need to know there will probably be upwards of 70,000 - 90,000 people meandering throughout the cemetery, but through it all, there is a unique intimacy to what has been termed “a one of a kind goose-bump experience;” one that you will never forget – promise! In 2015, 20,000 volunteers were anticipated, but by 10:00 A.M., it is estimated that there were approximately 70,000 volunteers onsite and the cemetery wasn’t crowded. The guesstimate for 2017 was 70,000 volunteers, but later reports said 90,000. Through it all, dignity and respect prevailed.

Hopefully we will be able to catch up with Gold Star Mom Vanessa Mace Adelson, and her husband Richard. We first met Vanessa five years ago as she was walking away from her son’s grave, thanking volunteers along the way who were helping to place wreaths in the area of her son’s final resting place.



Though one of many Gold Star Moms, since that first meeting, Vanessa has become a special friend to many of our tour veterans.



For our first timers, please remember Saturday is the day for jeans, substantial shoes or boots, layered clothing, hat and gloves; in other words, work clothing. It can be cold at the cemetery and it can be wet. And no, we have not always had “ideal” weather and have had to deal with snow and ice, but that’s a rarity. Bone-chilling cold is a different story and has been encountered on occasion. Hand warmers for inside your gloves and boots are smart to pack, as is an inexpensive poncho in case of inclement weather.



After placing in excess of 250,000 + wreaths, we will board our motor coach and depart the cemetery promptly at 11:50 A.M. and head back to the hotel, perhaps cold and tired, but unquestionably enriched by the events of the day.



The afternoon is yours for free time, but we do have lots of suggestions if you feel you must be on the go the entire day. Our veterans have learned that naps are a good thing as an exceptional evening has been planned.



As before, dinner is on your own, but please keep in mind that the final event of the day will take us to Constitution Hall where we will be treated to a true holiday event, the United States Navy Concert Band, the Sea Chanters, Country Current, and the Commodores and Cruisers as they celebrate the spirit of the season and do all within their power to spread a lot of holiday magic. This is another not-to-be missed performance and is more often than not reported to be the best Christmas show in town. In order to be on site for curtain time, we will need to board our motor coach at 7:00 P.M. We will return to the hotel at 9:30 P.M. at the conclusion of the program.

### **Sunday, December 16, 2018 - Time To Go Home**

We have not planned any formal tours or church services as we know many participants need to get home. Christmas is just around the corner and many still have much to accomplish! If you have a late flight, and would like some suggestions to help you enjoy your last day in the area, just let us know. We have several ideas to share; historic churches and brunch at Gatsby's Tavern which dates back to 1770.

### ***~ Helpful Hints ... Perhaps Some New Things This Year ~***

**Hotel Reservations.** We will be returning to the Embassy Suites Hotel Crystal City – National Airport by popular demand. All who were present last year applauded the hotel's facilities and services. Tour participants will be responsible for making their own hotel reservations. We have provided a direct link to the hotel for you to do so. Those individuals who prefer to call in their reservation may do so. The number to call has been provided below and on the Hotel Information Sheet.

**Arrival:** Whatever you do, if you are planning to join us for either of our Thursday events, you should plan to be on site Wednesday evening, December 12<sup>th</sup> as there is virtually no way for you to get into the city on an early morning flight and be able to link up with us Thursday morning.

Embassy Suites - Crystal City - National Airport Hotel  
1300 Jefferson Davis Highway  
Arlington, VA  
703-979-9799

Reservation Link – Everything must be exactly as shown below:

<http://embassysuites.hilton.com/en/es/groups/personalized/W/WASCRES-WAA-20181211/index.jhtml>

**Dodge Reservation Code: WAA**

Reservation Telephone Number If You Prefer To Call In Your Reservation: **800-EMBASSY**

Be forewarned. Check-in time is 4:00 P.M. All guests arriving before 4:00 P.M. may be accommodated as rooms become available provided that such guests elect to pay an early arrival fee. Fees range from \$50 prior to 9:00 A.M., and \$26 between 9:00 A.M. and Noon. Afterwards, as available, the hotel will do what it can to accommodate guests.

**Flying In?** Please be certain to fly into Washington Reagan National Airport (DCA). Don't even think about flying into any other area airports as our host hotel, Embassy Suites-Crystal City / National Airport Hotel, is but one mile from the airport. Free shuttle service is available to and from the airport to the hotel. Those wanting to do a little exploring beforehand, discounted hotel rooms will be available starting December 11th.

**Driving In?** Those traveling with the Dodge Wreaths across America Project, will be afforded a discounted garage parking rate of \$19.00 per night. Valet parking is not available. Be sure to mention our code: WAA.

**Registration Forms. This is really important.** All registrations must be faxed to Dodge's secure fax Line - **978-600-2336**. Once credit card payments have been processed, registration forms will be turned over to Sally B for processing just as in the past. Please be certain that all information is legible. Also, be certain to watch the cutoff date for registration – **November 11, 2018**. Thereafter, registrations will be accepted on a space-available basis.



**Confirmations.** Upon receipt of your registration form, you will be provided with an acknowledgement of receipt of your registration. Hotel confirmations will be forwarded directly by Embassy Suites. Hotel fees will be posted to your credit card on hotel check-out. Prior to departure, you will be provided with a list of helpful tour tips; i.e., items that are prohibited in certain venues, when and where to assemble, a minute-by-minute itinerary and reminders about anything that you should know to make your trip more enjoyable.

**Attire.** Insofar as dress is concerned, business casual attire is appropriate for all events, but **NOT** the Saturday morning Wreath Laying. This is one time you will want to be attired in warm clothing and jeans or clothing that can take a beating as we do not want you to ruin your good clothing with sap from the wreaths or a little mud if the weather is inclement. Please keep in mind that substantial shoes or boots are in order as you will be traversing cemetery grounds where the ground is not necessarily level. Gloves are essential. Ladies, please forget about handbags; in other words, bring only what is absolutely necessary for the wreath laying event Saturday morning. Cameras are always good, but be sure they are not going to be a burden. We will have to pass through a security check point. Remember the numbers, folks!

So as not to be confused with Saturday's activities at Arlington National Cemetery, remember jeans are NOT appropriate for any other part of our tour, especially as we will hold a formal Wreath Laying at the Tomb of the Unknowns Friday morning. This is a very solemn and dignified event.

**Tour Package.** Our three-day tour package includes ground transportation, tour fees / tickets and all gratuities. Lunch Thursday and Friday afternoons are included, as well as snacks along the way. A cooked-to-order breakfast is included in your hotel reservation, as well as the hotel's evening reception. If you are traveling with children, please contact Sally B for special pricing.

**In Need of Continuing Education Credits?** Just let us know! The Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice will award a total of .75 continuing education credits for participation in selected programs which translates into 7.25 CEUs. Individual sessions will be prorated. Of note, there are no continuing education credits associated with the tour to the National Marine Corps Museum and the FBI Academy as there was no way to tie their missions to funeral service. For state-specific information regarding continuing education credits, please give Sally B a call or drop her a note.

**Security Clearance.** To avoid any snafus, please be certain to have a government-issued photo ID or a Passport with you at all times. Security in many of our venues is a major concern. Please be certain to complete the information on our registration page as each agency has very specific security requirements. Those going to the FBI Academy will be required to provide their Social Security number. We have a plan in place where you will not have to fax or e-mail your Social Security number. Sally B will be in direct contact with you for this important information. The Dodge Company and its employees take ID theft very seriously. As such, as noted on our registration form, we will do everything in our power to protect your personal information. This is Dodge's pledge to its clients and to our Wreaths across America participants as well.

With your help, the 2018 Wreaths across America Arlington Wreath Project will be a historic event!

***Space is limited; so please register early for this unique moment in history.***

For complete information, please contact:

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***Come, Join Us ... "Don't Say I Should Have. Say I Did!"***

