

# Wreaths Across America

"The environmental efforts displayed by TDS are noteworthy and are to be commended. We look forward to TDS' continued support and leadership in an environmental example that others can follow."

Wayne Hanson,  
Wreaths Across America Board Chairman



What began in 1992 with a trailer load of wreaths, placed by a handful of volunteers at the graves of our fallen at Arlington National Cemetery, has now become a national organization with over a million volunteers - all focused on the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach about the service and sacrifice of our veterans. Wreaths Across America (WAA) is a national 501c3 organization with more than 1,300 participating locations, in all 50 states and 24 veteran cemeteries on foreign soil.

In 2017, the Texas State Cemetery honored Texas veterans and other prominent Texans at the second annual event that took place in Austin on December 16th. This heartwarming placement ceremony was coordinated simultaneously at more than 1,300 locations across the world.

During the Austin event, thanks to local donors, wreaths were placed on 2,417 graves at the Texas State Cemetery, honoring every veteran and others who had been laid to rest there.

In an effort to be environmentally conscious, Texas Disposal Systems [TDS] partnered with WAA by donating their services, including picking up the wreath boxes for recycling and collecting and composting the retired wreaths after their removal. As the only fully integrated provider in Central Texas, we were able to seamlessly process every item that came to us, including wreath boxes, wreaths, metal wreath rings and bows.

We helped the community to not only honor the memories of those who have passed, but are also helping preserve the environment for future generations. Results from 2017 included:

- 269 wreath boxes: 860 lbs. of cardboard were diverted from the landfill.
- 2,417 wreaths: from the wreaths, approximately 8 cubic yards of mulch are being processed and made into Eco Thrive [STA certified] compost, which will be distributed back into our local communities.
- Metal from wreaths: approximately 60 lbs. were diverted from the landfill.

"We are honored to be a part of such a humbling event," said Jim Gregory, co-owner of Texas Disposal Systems. "It is also a wonderful feeling to know that we are able to help give back to our local community as a result of our environmental efforts."

Texas Disposal Systems considers it a privilege to continue our partnership with this organization and looks forward to many years of this special relationship.