Wreaths Across Fort Snelling

Air Force Recognized in Ceremony

On a frigid, wintery Saturday morning volunteers, officials, and Air Force representatives joined with with military family members for the presentation of wreaths at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. This was part of the December 12, 2010 nationwide observance of Wreaths Across America, which honors all former and current members of the military—especially those who have died in the line of service.

A memorial ceremony preceded the distribution of some 3,000 wreaths among the headstones. An Honor Guard of Minnesota Civil Air Patrol Cadets posted the Colors, followed by a choir comprised of University of St. Thomas ROTC cadets who sang the National Anthem. Wreaths were laid upon monuments representing each military service.

Lt. Governor Carol Molnau spoke on the military's important role in securing America's safety. She thanked all veterans for their service. SSgt. John Kriesel, a veteran of Kosovo, spoke about the fragility of freedom. Freedom is passed on from generation to generation; each one responsible for the sacrifices necessary to fight for freedom's continued endurance, sustainability and survival.

After a ceremonial volley and a very moving playing of Taps, all in attendance were asked to participate in the laying of the wreaths.

Above; (Top) A wreath leans against US Air Force Monument; (Bottom) Lt. Governor Molnau awaits her turn to speak, shown in front of the University of St. Thomas cadets.
(Above right and right) Volunteers unpack 3,000 wreaths and distribute them to the gravesites.

Text and photos by Larry Sagstetter