



Lincoln-Way District 210 News Release

From: Taryn Atwell

Date: December 29, 2017

RE: Lincoln-Way cadets volunteer through the holidays

On Saturday, December 16, 2017, the veterans' graves at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery were honored at the annual "Wreaths Across America" wreath-laying event; the event took place at National Cemeteries across the country. The event was established to honor and remember veterans from each branch of the military, as well as the prisoners of war and those missing in action.

Master Sergeant Dan Schliffka served as the Master of Ceremonies coordinator and was joined by over 100 Lincoln-Way Air Force JROTC cadets who served as American Flag bearers, singers of the National Anthem, and military wreath presenters. In addition to the ceremony presentation, the cadets assisted community volunteers as they unpacked over 18,000 wreaths to be placed on veteran grave sites.

Wreaths Across America is a National project with a mission to "Remember, Honor, and Teach" by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies at over 1,200 National Cemeteries across the nation. "Our goal is to remember our fallen U.S. Veterans, honor those who serve, and teach children the value of freedom." said Schliffka.

In addition to serving veterans at the Wreaths Across America event, Lincoln-Way Air Force JROTC cadets served the community by helping with the annual "Christmas Tree Ship" event on December 2, 2017. Cadets opened the ceremony by presenting the flags and singing the National Anthem. They were later joined by other local volunteer organizations to unload over 1,000 trees from the U.S. Coast Guard cutter, Mackinaw; trees were placed onto trucks for distribution to deserving families throughout Chicago. Over 60 cadets participated in the event.

"Lincoln-Way Air Force JROTC cadets are very giving of their time." stated MSgt Schliffka. "Between both events, over 800 community service hours were recorded. This speaks multitudes for the gracious attitude of our students."

