

# Sons of The American Legion



Bernie Kessler, Chairman  
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Sons of The American Legion  
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October 22, 2024

To: All Members of The Sons of The American Legion

Re: Wreath Laying Ceremonies, Washington DC, Sunday, February 23, 2025

The Sons of The American Legion National Commander Joseph Navaretté will be placing a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery at 1:15 pm after stopping at the World War II Memorial and the Vietnam Wall Memorial. This notification will allow members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Riders friends and families to attend and show our respect for the sacrifices made by our Nation's military in the defense of liberty and freedom.

In previous years, Detachments placed their wreaths in various areas in Washington DC. The National Organization received from the American Legion Family and many tourists have made positive statements seeing the wreaths from Detachments placed around the Washington area. We feel that this is a very positive outcome and are recommending any Detachment wishing to lay a wreath or have a wreath laid for them in the Washington area to continue.

Representatives from each Detachment or their designee would be able to choose a location to lay their wreath, some placed wreaths at areas that the bus rented by the National Organization stopped to do ceremonies, and others later placed wreaths in various locations around Washington DC. I will be ordering wreaths for National Commander Navarette, and to have the wreaths appear in conformity, we will order wreaths as a group for each Detachment or Squadron; the wreaths last year cost each Detachment \$200 and remain the same for this year.

I will provide each Detachment with a separate receipt from the florist shop for each wreath ordered, if requested. Checks should be made payable to Bernie Kessler and mailed to my home address. Below is an order form. Please send back only the bottom portion of this letter and keep the top section for your records. **I must receive the completed order form and payment by January 29, 2025, to ensure your Detachment has a wreath ordered. (No payment, no wreath, no group rate!)**

At Arlington National cemetery we will be going to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The tomb is a walk uphill from the visitor center and you may walk or take the tram. This year we are again adding an offer to purchase your tickets for the Tram ride to the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery in advance to speed up the process of getting to the Tomb of The Unknown Soldier quicker. Group rate for the Tram ride is \$15.50 each. If you would like to be included, fill it in on the form and we will purchase group rate tickets. Veterans can get a cheaper rate but MUST purchase on your own with qualified ID, we cannot purchase them for you.

The National Organization will again this year rent two buses to transport individuals to and from the wreath laying ceremonies. In an effort to fully take advantage of this we will be taking **requests** for seats on the buses with the wreath order. It is very important, if you reserve a seat that you be in attendance and if you cannot, please contact: Bernie Kessler, ASAP (Cell 419-564-0114).

We will also again this year order box lunches for on the bus “it is highly recommended that individuals take advantage of this as it is a long period to go without eating.” The cost will be \$9.00 each - you will have a choice of turkey, ham or roast beef. Payment and choice will be needed along with the wreath order.

**Everyone who wishes to attend MUST fill out a form and submit, National does not reserve for anyone.**

If you need further information or have questions, I can be contacted by phone during the day at 419-564-0114 or by email: [kesslerbernie@gmail.com](mailto:kesslerbernie@gmail.com)

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**WREATH & LUNCH ORDER FORM - WASHINGTON CONFERENCE WREATH LAYING**

**on SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025**

**Deadline for submissions to be received is January 29, 2025**

DETACHMENT \_\_\_\_\_ CONTACT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

Wreath Request (\$200) – (Name of Detachment) \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Box Lunch (\$9.00 each) Turkey # \_\_\_\_\_ Ham # \_\_\_\_\_ Roast Beef # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$9.00 Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Arlington National Cemetery General Admission Group Rate

Total Arlington tickets \_\_\_\_ x \$15.50 each Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Paid for Wreath, Lunch and Arlington Tram:**      **Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Number of Seats Requested for Bus - # \_\_\_\_\_

Name of others attending and Cell # (Please fill out completely to allow for better communication) -

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT MUST BE ENCLOSED. ORDER WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PAYMENT!!!**

Make check payable to: Bernie Kessler and mail to: Bernie Kessler, 5726 Vorndran Rd, New Washington, OH 44854