

CHRISTMAS HONORS ANNOUNCES GUEST SPEAKER

Fort Smith, AR – Monday, November 20, 2023 – Every December Christmas Honors invites the citizens of the Fort Smith Region to honor the servicemembers of our community who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our nation at the annual Christmas Honors event. Families, friends, and volunteers will transform the Fort Smith National Cemetery by placing a wreath on each of the 16,000+ headstones in their honor. Part of the event is a powerful ceremonial tribute that includes a special message to our veterans, their families, and our community delivered by a noteworthy guest speaker.

This year, Christmas Honors is excited to announce that Chief Danny Baker with the Fort Smith Police Department will be the guest speaker.

“The Christmas Honors Program is such a wonderful opportunity for our friends and neighbors to come together and honor the lives and families of those resting at the Fort Smith National Cemetery.” shared Chief Baker. “I am deeply humbled to have been asked to speak at this year's ceremony and I am looking forward to this incredible time of caring and remembering of our hometown heroes.”

Chief Baker will share his message during the 11:00 a.m. public ceremony at the pavilion at the Fort Smith National Cemetery on December 2nd, 2022. He joins an extensive list of prestigious speakers who have addressed the community at past events.

Past speakers include:

2022 Terisa C. Riley, Ph.D., Chancellor, University of Arkansas Fort Smith
2021 2nd Lt. Justin Legris, Arkansas Army National Guard
2019 Chad Colley, Decorated Military Veteran
2018 Greenwood Mayor Doug Kinslow
2017 Deena Burnett Bailey
2016 Sebastian County Sheriff Bill Hollenbeck
2015 Col. Bobbi Dorrenboss, Commander, 188th Wing, Arkansas Air National Guard
2014 Jeffrey Teas, US Veterans Administration
2013 General William Wofford, Adjutant General, Arkansas National Guard
2012 Clint Hill, Author "Mrs. Kennedy and Me"

DATE REMINDERS:

Wreath Workshop/Assembly

Friday, December 1, 2023

Fort Smith Convention Center Hall C from 9:00AM-2:00PM

Christmas Honors Wreath Event

Saturday, December 2, 2023

Fort Smith National Cemetery

- 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. – Family Time - Please respect this time to allow the families of our heroes to lay wreaths on their loved one's headstone(s).
- 11:00 a.m. Public Ceremony

- 11:30 a.m. Public Laying of the Wreaths – Immediately following the ceremony, attendees will lay wreaths on all remaining headstones. Please do not start to lay wreaths until the ceremony is complete.

Wreath Pick Up and Storage

Friday, January 5, 2024

Fort Smith Convention Center Hall C from 9:00AM-2:00PM

For more information, visit www.ChristmasHonors.org or Facebook @ChristmasHonors

###