

CHRISTMAS HONORS SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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. – Ceremony at the Pavilion

11:30 a.m. – Laying of the Wreaths

Immediately following the ceremony, attendees will be asked to lay wreaths on all remaining headstones.

- Please do not start to lay wreaths until the ceremony is complete.
- One wreath per headstone unless both spouses are veterans.
- Lean the wreath on the front of the headstone. Please do not wrap it on top.

Save the Date

Wreath Pick Up and Storage

Friday, January 10, 2025

Fort Smith Convention Center Hall C at 9:00AM

You can **donate** online at

ChristmasHonors.org

or by mailing a check to:

Christmas Honors
PO Box 10696
Fort Smith, AR 72917

Christmas Honors is a 501c3 tax deductible organization.

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CONTRIBUTING SPONSORS

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Things to Do in Fort Smith

EVENT VOLUNTEERS

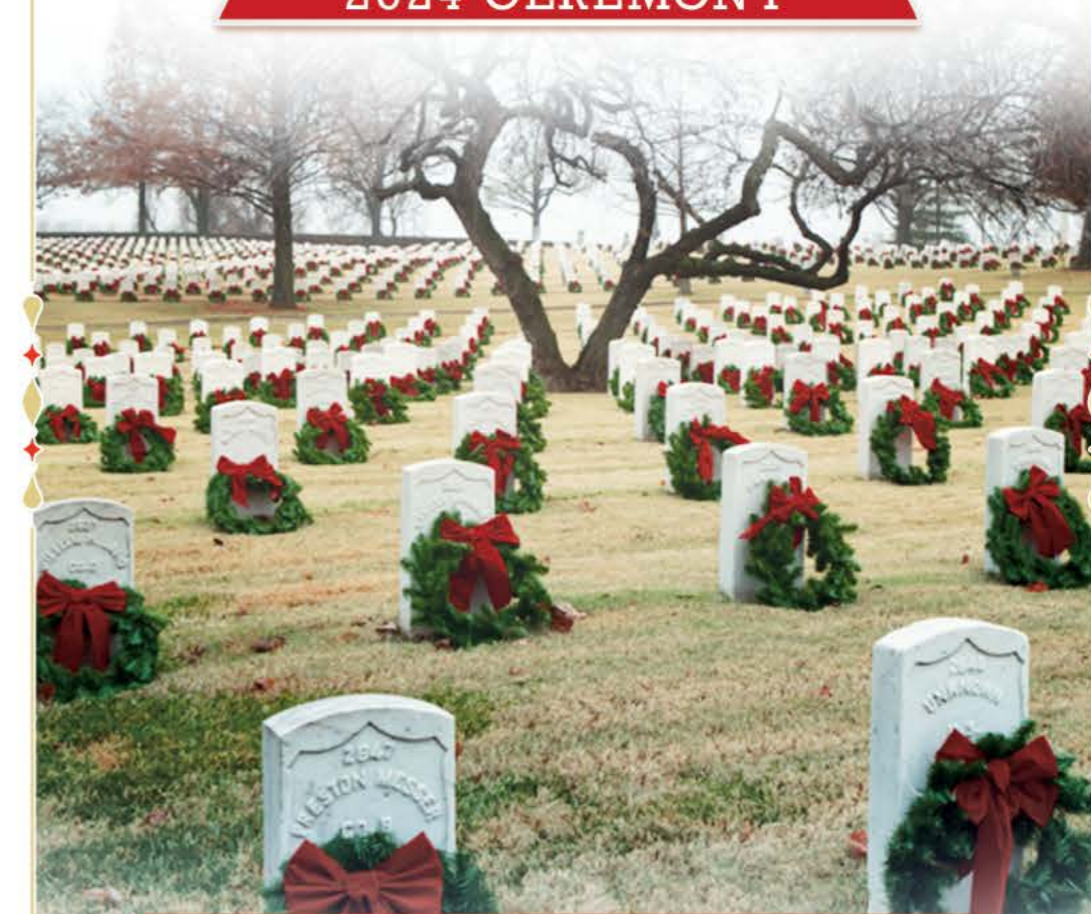
Alma High School NJROTC
American Legion Auxiliary
First Lutheran School
Fort Smith Chorale
Fort Smith EMS
Fort Smith Fire Department
Fort Smith Parks & Recreation
Fort Smith Police Department
Fort Smith Police Department
Public Safety Cadet Unit #2688
Fort Smith Public Schools

Fort Smith Roundtable/Golden
Knights and Jewels
Fort Smith Street Department
(A Team)
Greenwood High School JROTC
Northside High School JROTC
River Valley Marine Corps League
Sebastian County
Sheriff's Department
Southside High School JROTC



Christmas Honors

2024 CEREMONY



SATURDAY, DEC. 7TH
FORT SMITH NATIONAL CEMETERY
11:00AM AT THE PAVILION

GUEST SPEAKER - ROBERT REGO, MAJ. GEN., RET.

Major General Robert D Rego is a 36-year veteran of Department of Defense space, nuclear and cyber operations. General Rego entered the Air Force in 1985 as a graduate of the Reserve Officer Training Corps program at the University of California, Los Angeles. His military assignments include a tour as a Minuteman III Intercontinental Ballistic Missile Crewmember and duty at Headquarters U.S. Space Command. He served as the Air Force Research Laboratory liaison to the U.S. Army Big Crow Program Office, in numerous assignments at Headquarters Air Force Space Command, and as the Air Force Global Strike Command Director of Communications and Vice Commander. General Rego forward deployed as deputy commander for an Army Space Command unit during Operation Allied Force, and as a space and information operations planner for a Joint Special Operations Task Force during operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In his final assignment in uniform, General Rego served as the Mobilization Assistant to the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command.



Following his military retirement, General Rego returned to government service as the Strategic Missions Advisor to the Commander, U.S. Strategic Command. In this role he assisted the Commander in operationalizing the Space Joint Operating Area and supported the on-going execution of the nuclear, space, cyber and electronic warfare missions.

During his career, General Rego was at the forefront of novel solutions affecting far-reaching missions. As a young officer he led the training on a new nuclear command and control system, tested new computer systems in the Cheyenne Mountain Complex and supported the certification of a new international rocket program. Mid-career he attended the Air Command and Staff College, the Naval War College and tested world-wide space systems. As a senior officer, he led the effort to consolidate and organize Air Force-wide cyber capabilities into Air Force Space Command. He was the transition lead for all nuclear Intercontinental Ballistic Missile capabilities moving from Air Force Space Command to the newly formed Air Force Global Strike Command. He led the stand-up of the Joint Interagency Combined Space Operations Center for U.S. Strategic Command and he assisted in the standup of U.S. Space Command. In his final two years of service he was a part of establishing the United States Space Force — the first new military service in over 72 years — serving as the deputy and later stand-up team lead with special emphasis on culture and identity issues for the new Service.

Robert and his wife Tricia have been married for 39 years and have three sons and five grandchildren. Settling in Arkansas after a long career across the country and around the world, they are proud to call Fort Smith home.

PROGRAM

<i>Vocal Prelude "Joy to the World"</i>	Members of Fort Smith Chorale <i>Under the Direction of William Cromer</i>
<i>Welcome</i>	Jason Shelton <i>Director of Fort Smith National Cemetery</i>
<i>Presentation of Colors</i>	Honor Guard <i>Fort Smith Police Department</i>
<i>National Anthem</i>	Members of the Fort Smith Chorale <i>Under the Direction of William Cromer</i>
<i>Invocation</i>	Rev. Don Hutchings <i>Pastor Emeritus, Evangel Temple, Fort Smith, Arkansas</i>
<i>Welcome</i>	The Honorable Mayor George B. McGill <i>City of Fort Smith Mayor and United States Army Veteran</i>
<i>Wreath Ceremony</i>	Philip H. Merry, Jr. <i>Chairman, Christmas Honors</i> Jason Shelton, <i>Director of Fort Smith National Cemetery</i> Northside High School JROTC Grizzly Battalion Fort Smith Fire Department
<p>Mayor George B. McGill - United States Army Veteran Alex Arnold - United States Marine Corps, Master Sergeant Scott Barton - United States Navy, Petty Officer 2nd Cl. Ret. <i>Submarine Sonar Technician</i> Ken "Heater" Griffin - United States Air Force, Lt. Col. Ret. Robert Rego - United States Air Force Maj. Gen., Ret. Caleb Peterson - United States Coast Guard, Lt. Jared Henry - United States Coast Guard, 1st Cl. Petty Officer Justin Legris - AR Army National Guard, 1st Lt.</p> <p>Christmas Honors Volunteer Hall of Fame: CDR Gretchen S. Hill, U.S. Navy (Ret) <i>Presented by Ms. Elly Gibbons, Treasurer</i> <i>Fort Smith Christmas Honors</i></p>	
<i>Guest Speaker Introduction</i>	Philip H. Merry, Jr. <i>Chairman, Christmas Honors</i>

PROGRAM (cont'd)

<i>Guest Speaker</i>	Robert Rego <i>United States Air Force Maj. Gen., Ret.</i>
<i>Choral Selection "Silent Night"</i>	Members of Fort Smith Chorale <i>Under the Direction of William Cromer</i>
<i>Benediction</i>	Reverend Tasha Blackburn <i>First Presbyterian Church of Fort Smith</i>
<i>Closing Remarks</i>	Philip H. Merry Jr. <i>Chairman, Christmas Honors</i>
<i>Ceremonial Rifle Salute</i>	River Valley Marine Corps League <i>Detachment #1248</i>
<i>Echo Taps</i>	Justin Legris & Erick Amaya
<i>Retiring of the Colors</i>	Honor Guard <i>Fort Smith Police Department</i>
<i>Laying of the Wreaths</i>	Fort Smith Fire Fighters and Pipe and Drum Corp
<p><i>Christmas Honors Board of Directors</i> Philip H. Merry, Jr. - Chairman Claude Legris - Vice Chairman of Event Coordination Todd McCorkle - Vice Chairman of Operations David Ferguson - Secretary Elly Gibbons - Treasurer Danny Baker, Shawna Burgess, Casey Collyar, Johnny Helms, Scott Hunter, Lea Taylor, & Larry Todd</p> <p><i>Advisory Board</i> Arline Coatney, Jim Berngen, Melissa Hanesworth, Kyra Jenner, & Sherry Neely</p> <p><i>Event Team</i> Marvin Chapin, Victoria Hardy, Bryan & Kat Merry</p>	