

Wreaths Across America

"The environmental efforts displayed by Texas Disposal Systems are noteworthy and are to be commended. We look forward to TDS' continued support and leadership in setting an environmental example that others can follow."

Wayne Hanson
Wreaths Across America Board Chairman



What began in 1992 with a trailer load of wreaths, placed by a handful of volunteers at the graves of our fallen at Arlington National Cemetery, has now become a national organization with over a million volunteers – all focused on the mission to Remember, Honor and Teach about the service and sacrifice of our veterans. Wreaths Across America is a national 501c3 organization with more than 1,300 participating locations, in all 50 states and 24 veteran cemeteries on foreign soil.

In 2016, the Texas State Cemetery helped celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Wreaths Across America organization by honoring Texas veterans and other prominent Texans at the inaugural event that took place in Austin on December 17th. This heartwarming placement ceremony was coordinated simultaneously at more than 1,200 locations across the world.

During the Austin event, thanks to local donors, wreaths were placed on the 2,978 graves at the Texas State Cemetery, honoring each person who had been laid to rest there.

In an effort to be environmentally conscious, Texas Disposal Systems (TDS) partnered with the organization by donating their services, including picking up the wreath boxes for recycling and collecting and composting the retired wreaths after their removal. As the only fully integrated provider in Central Texas, we were able to seamlessly process every item that came to us, including wreath boxes, wreaths, metal wreath rings, flags, bows and aluminum twist ties.

We helped the community to not only honor the memories of those who have passed, but also help preserve the environment for future generations. Results included:

- 335 wreath boxes: 1200 lbs. of cardboard (one bail) were diverted from the landfill.
- 2,978 wreaths: from the wreaths, 8.5 cubic yards of mulch were processed and made into Eco Thrive (STA certified) compost, which was distributed back into our local communities.
- Metal from wreaths: 72 lbs. were diverted from the landfill.

"We were honored to be a part of such a humbling event," said Jim Gregory, co-owner of Texas Disposal Systems. "It was also a wonderful feeling to know that we were able to help give back to our local community as a result of our environmental efforts."

Texas Disposal Systems considers it a privilege to continue our partnership with this organization and looks forward to many years of this special relationship.