

Southern Wesleyan University is placing wreaths at Pickens Cemetery (900 Three and Twenty Road, Easley) on December 14, 2019 at Noon (12 PM). For more information on how to volunteer or sponsor a wreath for a hero, please visit [www.swu.edu/pickens-cemetery](http://www.swu.edu/pickens-cemetery). It is always a free event and open to all people.

The property that is now Pickens Cemetery was Cherokee Land until 1777. Colonial settlers, especially after the American Revolution began to inter loved ones on this property. To date, there are 273 known gravesites in the cemetery, with 37 confirmed veterans. There are an additional seven probably veterans in the cemetery whom we will also be honoring. Most of the veterans are Revolutionary War veterans. Of note is Robert Pickens, relative to General Andrew Pickens and captain of the SC Militia. Through a generous donation by Rev. Carl Garrison, Southern Wesleyan University has acquired the cemetery and surrounding property. The University is excited for the opportunities that this will provide to our students as they begin to unearth the rich and relatively unknown history of the Upstate of South Carolina. SWU is partnering with Wreaths Across America, to honor the service, sacrifice, and commitment of the forty-four veterans interred at Pickens Cemetery.

Each year, on National Wreaths Across America Day, millions of Americans come together to *remember* the fallen, *honor* those that serve and their families, and *teach* the next generation about the value of freedom.

This year's theme is "Everyone Plays a Part." When "Mighty" Miles Worcester, the grandson of the founders of Wreaths Across America, Morrill and Karen Worcester, thanked a veteran for his service, the veteran responded, "Thank you. Everyone plays a part." Miles told his grandmother that he thought this would be a great theme because "those serving in the military are doing their part, but it is our part as Americans to remember and honor them, and that's what Wreaths Across America does."

For our First Annual Wreaths Across America ceremony, Southern Wesleyan University is so honored and thankful to those who have already partnered with us through generous financial and other donations. In order to honor all 44 veterans at Pickens Cemetery, we need everyone's help! Please visit [www.swu.edu/pickens-cemetery](http://www.swu.edu/pickens-cemetery) to find more information and to get involved.

### **About Wreaths Across America**

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992. The organization's mission—Remember, Honor, Teach—is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in December at Arlington, as well as at hundreds of veterans' cemeteries in all 50 state and beyond.