

For Immediate Release:

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Many are forgotten as families decorate the graves of loved ones during the holidays. The Newburgh Preservation Association is reversing that trend a little by placing fresh evergreens and bright American flags at the graves of sixty-five Newburghers who served in America's first wars. From the War for Independence through the Civil War, Newburgh's sons and daughters left home to protect their neighbors and secure a safe future. Their family and friends died a century or more ago and no one returns to their burial places to tend the graves or speak their names.

Supported by the Newburgh Free Academy Junior Air Force ROTC and leaders of local veterans organizations, the N.P.A. will focus attention on the veterans buried in Newburgh's oldest burying ground, the Old Town Cemetery on Grand and South Streets. Volunteers will follow the ROTC color guard into the cemetery at noon and listen to the reading of their names with highlights of a few of their stories. Veterans, cadets and other volunteers will place fresh wreaths on each grave designated by an American flag as part of the national Wreaths Across America Day. A prayer written by George Washington at the end of the Revolutionary War will be read and Taps will be played to conclude the event.

Ceremonies begin at noon at the Grand Street entrance beside Calvary Presbyterian Church and should last approximately 40 minutes.