

Wreaths Across America Driver Staging Event

Remarks: FMCSA Deputy Administrator

Allotted Time: 3-5 minutes

Opening

Thank you, J.D., for that wonderful introduction. And good morning to everyone.

On behalf of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, it's a pleasure to be here to recognize and thank so many people who make this effort possible:

- Karen Worcester and all the staff and many volunteers with Wreaths Across America
- Bud and J.D. Morrisette, and the entire team at Interstate Moving Company, for hosting us
- All the law enforcement officers who are here to safely escort trucks

And I want to give a special thank you to our truck drivers here and across the nation, who have volunteered their time to be part of the Honor Fleet.

I know some of the drivers, and many of the volunteers, may be veterans themselves. Thank you for helping fulfill the Wreaths Across America mission to Remember our fallen service members, Honor those who serve, and Teach the next generation the value of freedom.

Supply Chain and Economy

Today, truck drivers across the country are helping safely deliver wreaths to the resting places of veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

What you are doing is extremely honorable, not only because you are volunteering for this worthy effort, but also because you are doing so during a very busy time of year.

Truck drivers are the backbone of our economy and a critical part of our nation's supply chain. In fact, truck drivers are responsible for moving over 72% of all freight in this country every day. That includes the wreaths that will be delivered today.

The U.S. Department of Transportation and FMCSA have been making historic investments in safety and infrastructure to strengthen our supply chain and bolster our nation's trucking workforce, helping keep people and goods moving.

And that is so important this time of year. Without our nation's trucking workforce, it would be much more difficult to coordinate the delivery of all these beautiful wreaths.

And this holiday season would look much different as well. Food for holiday meals, decorations, presents, and more are being safely transported across the country by truck drivers.

So, let's take a moment to recognize them for their efforts today and throughout this holiday season.

Share the Road Safely

I know today you are here to receive a safety briefing, which is the reason that I am here to represent FMCSA.

Safety is at the core of FMCSA's mission to reduce crashes, injuries, and fatalities involving large trucks and buses. But that's a mission we can't accomplish alone.

I know all our truck drivers will do their jobs to deliver these wreaths safely and professionally. That's why you stepped up to the plate to volunteer for this role.

But today is also a great reminder that road safety is everyone's responsibility. We must all remember to share the road with large trucks.

That will help us make sure these wreaths get safely to their destinations. It will help us make sure all the food, presents, and other holiday cheer get safely to their destinations.

And most importantly, it will help us make sure that our truck drivers, and everyone on the roads, can make it home safely for the holidays.

Closing

I want to again thank our drivers not just for the work you are doing today, but for the work you do every day on our roads.

And to Wreaths Across America and all the volunteers, thank you for your continued work to Remember, Honor, and Teach.