



## Local Vets Honored With Wreaths During the Holidays

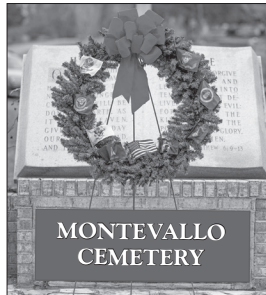
More than 300 veterans buried in the Montevallo City Cemetery were remembered by volunteers and family members who placed wreaths on their graves during the past holiday season. The local wreaths that were supplied as part of the two-million wreaths that were placed on veterans graves on the same day (Dec. 17) and at the same time nationwide by Wreaths Across America and its sponsors.

A brief memorial ceremony was also presented at which commemorative wreaths were laid by a group of veterans recruited to help honor each branch of the U.S. military. Following the ceremony, volunteers spread out over the entire burial ground to place live balsam wreaths from the state of Maine on pre-marked veterans graves.

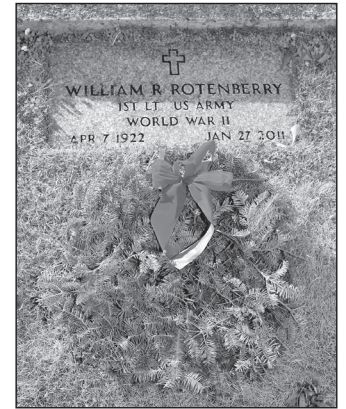
Wreaths for the event had been purchased online by veterans family members as well as anyone wanting to support the effort. The Montevallo Historical Society sponsored the Montevallo event by coordinating the purchase and delivery of wreaths and by organizing both the ceremony as well as the group of volunteers who pitched in to lay the wreaths.

Wreath laying day went so well, in spite of cold temperatures, that plans are already being made for the historical society to sponsor the event again on December 16, 2023. Links are already available at [www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org) for anyone wanting to order wreaths in advance for the 2023 holiday season.

Those who participated in laying wreaths on veterans graves in 2022 found the experience to be meaningful and highly moving. Please join us next year. Honor a vet and share the experience.



Colonel Tommy Baker, United States Army, retired salutes the wreath he has just placed in honor of all American Prisoners of War and servicemen and women listed as Missing in Action.



On December 17, 2022, holiday wreaths purchased by family members and the general public were laid on the graves of more than 300 veterans buried in Montevallo City Cemetery.



Cottingham family members and friends gathered to honor the memory of Walter C. Cottingham, Jr., (Airman Third Class, U.S. Air Force) who served his country during the Korean Conflict (1950-1953). (Left to Right) Kobe Cottingham, Larry Cottingham, Ann Cottingham, Debbie Tolbert, Kial Cottingham, LaToya Cottingham-Chappell, Tikisha Kirkland, Tim Cottingham, Sharon Kirkland, Marcus Lilly, James Kirkland, Terry Cottingham, Willie C. Cottingham, Antion Tolbert.

# Montevallo

## Historical Society

*Opening the Portals of Our Heritage*



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[www.historicmontevallo.org](http://www.historicmontevallo.org)