



MISSION BBQ Customers Donate \$228,000 to Wreaths Across America

COLUMBIA, MD (February 13, 2017) – Today [MISSION BBQ](#), the Baltimore-born fast-casual BBQ restaurant that proudly serves those who serve, announced the donation of \$228,000 to Wreaths Across America made possible by the generosity of their customers. Raised through the sales of their American Heroes Cups, the donation will help to sponsor 15,000 wreaths to remember our fallen U.S. veterans during the 2017 holiday season.

“We wouldn’t have the freedoms we have today if it wasn’t for our nation’s veterans who stepped up for us time and time again,” said Bill Kraus and Steve Newton, founders of MISSION BBQ. “We are humbled by the wonderful support of our customers and all the good that will be done for our so deserving American Heroes in remembering their lives, their service and their sacrifices.”

Best known for its annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, Wreaths Across America is a national veterans service nonprofit whose mission is to remember our fallen U.S. veterans, honor those who serve and teach the next generation the value of freedom. In addition to the wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, Wreaths Across America coordinates wreath-laying ceremonies at 1,200 locations in all 50 U.S. states, at sea and abroad.

“We’ve truly been blown away by the support we’ve received from Mission BBQ for our mission to Remember, Honor and Teach,” said Karen Worcester, executive director, Wreaths Across America. “Not only have they stepped forward to support efforts at Arlington, but they are supporting the mission across the country wherever there is a local cemetery near one of their restaurants. Everything they have done has been from the heart and is truly authentic to who they are and what they represent as an organization.”

American Heroes Cups are available to customers year-round, retailing at \$3.99 with \$2 of every cup purchase donated to a charity supporting veterans and first-responders. Currently proceeds from the American Heroes Cups will be donated to local police and fire charities. Customers are encouraged to bring back their American Heroes cup on return visits to the restaurant and receive \$.99 refills.

This is MISSION BBQ’s first-annual donation to Wreaths Across America. MISSION BBQ plans to launch a second fundraiser for Wreaths Across America starting in November 2017.

About MISSION BBQ

MISSION BBQ opened its doors for business on September 11, 2011. We believe there is nothing more American than BBQ. And **nobody** more American than the brave men and women who have sworn to protect and serve Our Communities and Our Country. We do

what we do for the love of our soldiers, firefighters, police officers, first responders — all our loved ones in service. We set across this great land from Texas to Kansas City, the Carolinas to St. Louis...to discover the secrets of great BBQ. Every day we strive to serve you authentic BBQ made from the freshest, most delectable ingredients, and serve it to you in a patriotic dining room filled with tributes to those who've made Our Country great, given to us by the people who earned them. Stop by at lunchtime, and you might catch us during our daily salute to the Stars and Stripes. To learn more about MISSION BBQ, please visit www.mission-bbq.com.

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 25 years ago. The organization's mission, Remember, Honor, Teach, is carried out in part each year by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies each December at Arlington, as well as at thousands of veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states and beyond. For more information, to sponsor wreaths or to sign up to volunteer, please visit www.WreathsAcrossAmerica.org.