



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Arborists Keep Camp Butler National Cemetery Beautiful with a National Day of Service

www.SalutingBranches.org

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Springfield, IL, September 21, 2016 – Tree care professionals will unite at Camp Butler National Cemetery in a volunteer day of service to save trees and honor veterans. **Saluting Branches, Arborists United for Veteran Remembrance** is partnering with local organizations including Joshua Tree Removal, the City of Champaign, the IL Department of Natural Resources, and others to bring much needed arboricultural services to this historic site, which was once part of a military training camp during the Civil war. Services will include pruning trees for structure and safety, removing hazardous trees and tree healthcare practices in order to keep this 154 year old cemetery a safe and beautiful sanctuary for all who visit.

The day's Opening Ceremony will take place from 8:00 AM – 8:30 AM. Tree work will begin at the 53 acre site immediately after with arborist volunteers providing expertise in tree structure, invasive insects, diseases, and best management practices for tree health. Work will continue in the cemetery until about 3:00 PM.

Saluting Branches began as an idea from a group of Minnesota tree professionals looking to give back to our military troops, and has evolved into a national project of caring for trees at veteran properties. One year later, with more than 1,100 volunteers, and over \$1,000,000 in donated services, Saluting Branches second annual day of service will take place on September 21st, 2016. With 36 cemetery sites eager to participate in 2016, year two of Saluting Branches promises to be an even more rewarding and enriching experience.

National Cemeteries are visited by millions of families and loved ones paying their respects to veterans. Many do not have professional arborists caring for their trees. Saluting Branches, a non-profit organization, saw an opportunity to make a difference by doing what they do best; caring for trees.

"I look forward to giving back and taking care of the place where those that gave their life have their final resting place." shared a 2015 volunteer. Other volunteer comments about the event include, "I did this last year and can't wait until this year to do it again. What an outstanding way to honor our country's veterans."; "Our actions and participation in this event is a small token of our thanks to the men and women who served. We are proud to be a part of an industry that recognizes our veterans and the sacrifices they made."

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A spokesperson from the Department of Veteran Affairs said; *“As I reflect back upon 2015 and the numerous landscape maintenance activities completed at the nationwide network of National Cemeteries administered by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA), the “Saluting Branches” National Day of Volunteer Arborist Service, which was organized and championed by Rainbow Treecare and supported by many other tree care companies from across the United States, was clearly the most successful and positively impactful.”*

Locations for our 2016 charitable event currently include:

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| Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL | Little Rock National Cemetery, Little Rock, AR |
| Baltimore National Cemetery, Baltimore, MD | Marietta National Cemetery, Marietta, GA |
| Beverly National Cemetery, Beverly, NJ | Massachusetts National Cemetery, Bourne, MA |
| Camp Butler National Cemetery, Springfield, IL | Nashville National Cemetery, Nashville, TN |
| Camp Nelson National Cemetery in Nicholasville, KY | National Cemetery of the Alleghenies, Bridgeville, PA |
| Culpeper National Cemetery, Culpeper, VA | New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery, Boscawen, NH |
| Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, Dallas, TX | Northern Wisconsin Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Spooner, WI |
| Dayton National Cemetery, Dayton, OH | Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery, Rittman, OH |
| Florida National Cemetery, Bushnell, FL | Onondaga Veteran’s Memorial Cemetery, Syracuse, NY |
| Fort Logan National Cemetery, Denver, CO | Quantico National Cemetery, Triangle, VA |
| Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery, San Diego, CA | Quincy National Cemetery, Quincy, IL |
| Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, San Antonio, TX | Rock Island National Cemetery, Rock Island, IL |
| Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, MN | Salisbury National Cemetery, Salisbury, NC |
| Greenwood Cemetery, Superior, WI | Santa Fe National Cemetery, Santa Fe, NM |
| Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA | Spring Grove Cemetery, Darien, CT |
| Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery, St. Louis, MO | Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, WA |
| Knoxville National Cemetery, Knoxville, TN | Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Exeter, RI |
| Leavenworth National Cemetery, Leavenworth, KS | Willamette National Cemetery, Portland, OR |

For press inquiries please contact Deb Peterson at dpeterson@rainbowtreecare.com.

For the most up to date information about Saluting Branches, including all locations and event sponsors, please visit: www.SalutingBranches.org

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