



More than two million volunteers participated in Wreaths Across America last year. More than a third of the volunteers were children. Photo courtesy of Kerry Ni.

American Heroes Honored on Wreaths Across America Day

December 17 is Wreaths Across America Day—a day set aside to honor American veterans. The annual event is held nationwide to remember the fallen, honor those who served, and teach the next generation about the value of freedom. This gathering of volunteers takes place in local and national cemeteries in all 50 states at more than 3,137 locations nationwide. The theme for Wreaths Across America 2022 is **“Find a Way to Serve.”**

Local officials and volunteers will gather to lay a wreath at every one of the veterans’ graves at seven cemeteries in Quincy and three cemeteries in Hingham. With six cemeteries in the Town of Hingham, half the cemeteries are visited on Wreaths Across America Day on a rotating basis

each year. It is a free event and open to everyone.

Keohane Funeral Home is proud to donate to Wreaths Across America in 2022 on behalf of all the veteran families served this past year.

“As in past years, we will be presenting a check to Christine Cugini, the Veteran coordinator for the City of Quincy. We have been involved since the very first year and make a donation on behalf of every veteran’s family we served during the year. We also have volunteered our time on the day of the event in placing wreaths on the graves. This year we will also be participating in the Town of Hingham’s program through our Pyne Keohane Funeral Home in Hingham,” said John Keohane, Co-President.

Wreaths Across America in Quincy

On December 17 at 12:00 pm, Wreaths Across America will hold a ceremony at Mount Wollaston Cemetery in Quincy to remember and honor our veterans through the laying of remembrance wreaths on every veteran’s grave in Quincy. The Robert I. Nickerson American Legion Post 382 (MA0036) will be on hand at Mount Wollaston Cemetery.

Volunteers are needed to help lay wreaths in Quincy. “We have approximately 4,200 at Mount Wollaston and a total of 7,300 across the seven cemeteries,” said Christine Cugini, Wreaths Across America Location Coordinator for Quincy.

Wreaths Across America in Hingham

On December 17 at 10:00 am, Wreaths Across America will be at the Old Ship Cemetery, Hingham Centre, and Liberty Plain Cemetery to remember and honor our veterans through the laying of remembrance wreaths and the act of saying the name of every veteran.

Continued on page 3

Interested in viewing this newsletter online or viewing past newsletters?

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FUNERAL HOME
Quincy, MA

McDonald Keohane

FUNERAL HOME
Weymouth, MA

Pyne Keohane

FUNERAL HOME
Hingham, MA

SENIOR CENTERS LOOK TO MEET GROWING NEEDS



Seniors at the Hingham Senior Center enjoy a laugh during an interactive dinner theater production of "Mangia, Meatballs and Murder."

Senior Centers in Hingham and Hull are brimming with activity during the holiday season. They also have an eye on the future to meet the growing needs of the senior population.

In Hingham, the Department of Elder Services operates a 5,500-square-foot senior center located next to Town Hall and the Hingham Police Department. The center provides programs and services to meet the interests and needs of Hingham's older adult population. In November, the town passed funding for a new public safety facility and Foster School. The town then posted a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for a feasibility study to determine if the space to be vacated by the Police Department, approximately 10,000 square feet, in addition to the existing 5,500 square feet, will meet the programmatic and space needs of the Hingham Senior Center.

The next step in the RFQ process is to review the submissions and conduct interviews with qualifying architecture

firms. "The Building Committee has been working hard for two years now, and I want to thank them for their dedication to working on this project and their efforts to bring the Senior Center forward as a focal point for the community of Hingham. This is truly an exciting time to be a part of the Senior Center," said Jennifer Young, Director, in the December newsletter of the Hingham Department of Elder Services.

In Hull, the town conducted a survey to better serve and plan for the evolving needs of Hull's growing senior population. Based on the 2019 census, 47 percent of the town's population is age 55+. [Aging in Hull: A Community Needs Assessment](#) was commissioned by The Town of Hull and The Hull Council on Aging in March 2022.

"The Report will help shape both short-term and long-term planning and development of Hull's Council on Aging and Senior Center, related to services, programming, staffing, budgeting,

space, public relations, and outreach. Feedback from residents, Hull's Select Board, municipal department leaders, and key community stakeholders shed light on the critical issues facing Hull's aging residents," stated Director Lisa Thornton in the report.

The report showed that the demand for Senior Center programs and services is expected to escalate in the coming years and that the physical space and programming of the Hull Council on Aging (COA) does not currently meet the needs of the range of ages and interests of the Hull older adult population.

In the short term, the COA will work to identify solutions to the parking shortage at the current Senior Center, such as utilizing parking lots that are not used during daytime hours, a shuttle service, and encouraging carpooling. In the long term, the COA Board is considering a new location or new building. One possibility is moving to the current middle school due to its declining enrollment.

Holidays in Hingham and Hull

The Hingham holiday schedule at the Senior Center includes the annual holiday party with musician Chris Carter, make your own holiday garden, holiday lights tours for homebound seniors, and much more. The Delvena Theatre Company, a South Shore troupe, will present an interactive dinner theater production of "A Christmas Carol." Most activities require registration. For more information, take a look at the newsletter, [Central Times](#), or call 781-741-1458.

The Hull holidays at the Senior Center include a holiday lunch and gift swap, Derby Street Shoppes, and Boston Pops concert in addition to all the regular programming, such as bingo, knitting, Zumba, and more. For more information, see the [December calendar](#). Please sign up by phone at 781-925-1239 or by email at HullCOA@town.hull.ma.us.

ABIGAIL ADAMS STATUE HONORS 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF WEYMOUTH



The Abigail Adams statue was recast from the original molds created by the late artist Lloyd Lilly to celebrate Weymouth's 400th anniversary.

Abigail Adams was born in Weymouth on November 22, 1744, and the town was home to this extraordinary woman for the first 20 years of her life. A statue of Abigail Adams will be dedicated in December and will be placed in Heritage Park in Weymouth. Located at the intersection of Route 53 and Middle Street, Heritage Park is the busiest intersection in Weymouth and the geographical center of town. Heritage Park has been rebuilt in anticipation of the Abigail statue.

The Abigail Adams statue was commissioned by Keohane Funeral Home as a gift to the Town of Weymouth in celebration of its 400th anniversary.

The statue was made from the original molds created by the late artist Lloyd Lilly who also sculpted the statue of Red Auerbach in Boston. The original statue,

which was commissioned by the Quincy Partnership and led by Edward Keohane, included Abigail's son John Quincy Adams and resides in Quincy. The new Abigail statue has been modified from the original mold and does not include John her son.

Weymouth 400

Settlers arrived in Weymouth in 1622, making it the second oldest community in Massachusetts. As Weymouth has reached this historic milestone, the Weymouth 400 organization has hosted community and commemorative events over the past few years. For more information and upcoming events, visit Weymouth400.org.

In addition to visiting the statue in Heritage Park, you can also tour the Abigail Adams birthplace, a home built in Weymouth in 1685 and managed by the Abigail Adams Historical Society.

American Heroes Honored on Wreaths Across America Day

Continued from page 1

This is the third year that the Town of Hingham has participated in the event. It was brought to Hingham by Location Coordinator Tom Hoffman and Veteran's Services Officer Keith Jermyn in 2020. There are a total of 3,600 veterans, including those that died in the Revolutionary War, buried across six cemeteries in Hingham.

Five years ago, Hoffman and his wife Debbie were invited by the Boston College Alumni Association to attend the laying of the wreaths at the Massachusetts National Cemetery in Bourne on Cape Cod.

"We were blown away," said Hoffman. "They had tractor-trailers full of wreaths to put out, because it's huge. We were so

impressed by it." Keith and Debbie found the graves of veterans that they knew in Bourne and marked their graves.

In Hingham, Hoffman enlists the help of special needs children and their families in fundraising efforts for Wreaths Across America through the South Shore Special Needs Athletic Partnership, a nonprofit organization providing athletic and recreational activities for children and young adults with different abilities.

Hoffman also involves the Daughters of the American Revolution, Veterans, volunteers, and the Hingham Police Officers Union in fundraising efforts.

Hoffman's 25-year-old son quit his job in Silicon Valley to enlist in Green Beret Special Forces training. "We really believe in people serving their country," said the proud dad.

Ways to Get Involved

SPONSOR A WREATH: Honor veterans in your local community by sponsoring a wreath that will be placed on a veteran's grave. The goal this year is to place a remembrance wreath on ALL of our veterans' graves in the City of Quincy. Please visit the Fundraising site to sponsor a wreath at [Mt. Wollaston Cemetery \(MAMWCO\)](http://Mt.WollastonCemetery(MAMWCO)), [Pine Hills Cemetery \(MAPHQM\)](http://PineHillsCemetery(MAPHQM)) or the [Hingham Cemeteries](http://HinghamCemeteries).

VOLUNTEER: Volunteer to place wreaths on a veteran's grave at [Mt. Wollaston Cemetery \(MAMWCO\)](http://Mt.WollastonCemetery(MAMWCO)), [Pine Hills Cemetery \(MAPHQM\)](http://PineHillsCemetery(MAPHQM)) or the [Hingham Cemeteries](http://HinghamCemeteries). Involve your friends and family to honor our service men, women, and families. Search for a location at <https://www.wreathscrossamerica.org>

Keohane Team Appreciation and Recognition



Funeral Director Apprentice Frank Maggiore (right) and the massage therapist from Mass Mobile Massage.



Funeral Director Carolyn Delorey (right) along with the massage therapist from Mass Mobile Massage.



Earlier this fall, Keohane Funeral Home treated the staff to a sunset cruise around Boston Harbor. We wanted to thank our team for all their hard work over the past years, especially after the stressful time of assisting so many families through the pandemic. We appreciate each one of you!

We could not be more proud of our team at Keohane Funeral Home—from long-time employees to our newest staff members and from our management to our apprentices. Everyone has worked harder than ever to bring the same compassion and care to our families that we've always provided, especially during very challenging times. This year, we have had the opportunity to share good times together in appreciation of everyone's efforts. In addition, the state funeral directors association also provided a chance to recognize team milestones.

Team Appreciation

As thanks to our entire team, we took a boat tour and brought in a therapist from Mass Mobile Massage for a day of wellness. The massage day was held on Wednesday, October 12, 2022, at our Quincy and Weymouth funeral homes with a massage therapist from Mass Mobile Massage. It was set up to thank our team for the long days worked during the pandemic and to emphasize the importance of personal well-being in our daily lives.

"We had 16 staff each have 15 minutes of a chair massage. It was nice to carve a little break out of a busy day to just relax," said John. "We hope to do it again in the near future."

Recognition

At the recent funeral director's annual meeting, some of our team members helped recognize the 90-year milestone of the Keohane Funeral Home location in Quincy. We are proud of our longevity as a family-owned funeral home in Massachusetts and the longevity of our dedicated staff. Three of our employees were recognized by the Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association for their years of service.

Recognition for Years of Service

Three of our longest-serving funeral directors were recognized at a dinner presented by the Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association.



EDWARD KEOHANE

Ed Keohane was recognized for being licensed in Massachusetts for 55 years. He is the second generation of his family to operate Keohane Funeral Home. His father, Cornelius V. Keohane, was the founder in 1932. Ed graduated from Providence College in 1965 then attended mortuary school and began working with his dad.



KATHLEEN KANE

Kathy Kane was recognized for being licensed in Massachusetts for 35 years. She began with Keohane as an office manager. She quickly realized that her passion was helping people with their grief journey and began the process to become a funeral director. While working, she went back to school and also became a registered nurse. "Kathy is recognized throughout the community because she has helped so many families and is requested by many more. She is warm, caring, has a wonderful sense of humor, and loves what she does every day," said Co-President John Keohane.



ROGER WALSH

Roger Walsh was recognized for being licensed in Massachusetts for 40 years. He began at Keohane as a funeral director and worked here for many years. He left for a period of time and dabbled in other businesses such as landscape design, interior design, and decorating. He later returned to Keohane and assisted families who wanted to pre-plan their funerals. "Roger is known throughout the state as one of the most capable professionals who creates a positive lasting impression of the deceased," said John.

**Keohane Funeral Home
Marks 90 Years in Quincy**

Several Keohane team members helped recognize the milestone of 90 years of the Keohane Funeral Home location in Quincy at the funeral director's annual meeting in October.



Respite Services for Caregivers



Respite care provides much needed time off for caregivers.

Every caregiver, especially full-time caregivers, needs time off. Whether it's for a planned vacation or special occasion, an unexpected illness, or recovery time following surgery, respite care can provide the peace of mind for caregivers that their loved ones are being well taken care of.

Respite care can be provided on a regular basis, such as three days a week, or can be scheduled in advance when needed for vacations or special occasions. There are two major ways that respite programs are run: in-home care and out-of-home care.

In-home care is provided by a companion, homemaker, personal care assistant, or home health aide who comes into the elder's home or your home. Sometimes volunteers are available through a "Friendly Visitor Program" or local faith-based organizations.

Kathy Loud, the Office Manager at Keohane, kept her mom in her own home for four years as she declined from Alzheimer's Disease. Kathy and her family depended on help from friends at church.

"At the beginning of Alzheimer's, when she was getting forgetful and needing some help, friends from church would have lunch with my mom and check on her. These friends from church turned into caregivers. As she got worse, they stepped up and wanted to continue. These were all retired women from church who were her friends and in good health. So, it became a part-time job for them," said Kathy.

In-home care can be done from one to several days a week. It is often for four hours or less to provide companionship and supervision and may or may not include personal care or household services. In-home care allows caregivers to go out, do errands, attend to personal business, work, or exercise. It can be arranged through your local Aging Services Access Point (ASAP), such as [South Shore Elder Services](#), or from private service providers. Private services are expensive, but they are particularly important for caregivers who are employed or live out of state.

Out-of-home care is provided by outside facilities, such as nursing homes or Adult Day Health centers. Out-of-home respite care can be provided for a few hours a day or overnight for as long as needed.

Adult Day Programs offer activities in a safe and familiar environment for elders and provide caregivers with relief. These services can be arranged through your local ASAP or Council on Aging (COA).

For longer stays, skilled nursing facilities, such as [BaneCare](#), support families and caregivers with overnight respite stays to provide a reprieve for those who need to travel or tend to personal obligations, need time to recover from surgery or illness, or simply require relief.

During a respite stay with BaneCare, your loved one will receive the same quality of care and compassion as they would at home. "We do it all the time. It's in the fabric of who we are," said Kevin Morris, President/Owner of BaneCare Management LLC.

For information about local Adult Day Health & Respite facilities check out the [South Shore Elder Services Resource Guide](#) on their website or contact them at (781) 848-3910.

Respite Funding and Eligibility

Respite care can be funded privately, but there are some programs available for help with respite care for eligible families. Medicaid and Senior Care Options (SCO) plans can provide funding assistance for eligible individuals and financial assistance might be available from your local Aging Service Access Point.

In Massachusetts, individuals with Mass Health insurance that includes nursing home care—not all plans do—and meets their clinical criteria which normally entails needing physical assistance or supervision due to cognitive impairment, are eligible for respite care coverage. This would generally be the same for SCO plans which are comprehensive health plans

Continued on page 7

OUR TEAM

Haley Drinkwater



Haley Drinkwater serves as an Apprentice Funeral Director and Embalmer at the Quincy location of Keohane Funeral Home. Haley is working towards her funeral director's license by serving a two-year apprenticeship with Keohane.

"She started with us fresh out of high school and has continued to learn and grow each and every day. Haley takes charge of situations confidently and has a keen eye for detail—two important traits needed as a funeral director. She also exudes warmth and sincerity for each family she assists. Lastly, Haley is a true team player and is always willing to help her co-workers," said John Keohane, Co-President.

Haley assists with all aspects of funeral care, from caring for the deceased to communicating with families.

"My work provides me with a unique opportunity to get to know families intimately and aid in guiding them through what are often some of the most difficult moments of their lives. It also provides me with a skill set which I will be able to carry with me and utilize in all of

my endeavors. This profession truly opens your eyes to just how important it is to feel connected to others," said Haley.

Haley graduated from high school with a major in diesel and mechanical technology, however, she took an interest in funeral service and the compassionate aspect of the industry. She is currently working on a degree in funeral service from the Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service out of Houston, Texas.

A resident of Quincy, Haley comes from a large but close-knit family. She lives with her grandparents and likes to spend time with them and her numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins. On her days off, you might find her writing or studying anatomy, psychology, and the history of funeral service. She also likes to travel and dine out with family and friends.

"Haley has matured since starting with us. She takes great pride in her work and always wants to do the best she can for every family. You may not know that she drives a pickup truck and can repair it with her own hands, and she loves animals," said John.



Haley Drinkwater serves as an Apprentice Funeral Director and Embalmer at Keohane.

Respite Services for Caregivers

Continued from page 6

that cover all the services normally paid for through Medicare and MassHealth.

"South Shore Elder Services contracts with certain nursing homes for respite care and is a good resource. The length of stay and any financial assistance available is assessed case by case," said Nancy Zappolo, Vice President of Care Integration at BaneCare.

There are also five-day respite stays available through hospice. The hospice

patient would be cared for in the nursing center to allow the caregiver time off from caregiving responsibilities. If the family chooses longer than five days, it's often at their own cost, unless the patient has Mass Health or SCO insurance with appropriate coverage.

Respite is one of the supports offered through Massachusetts's free Family Caregiver Support Program. To find the Family Caregiver Support Program closest to you, visit the Eldercare Locator online or by calling (800) 677-1116.

Additional Resources

For more helpful information about other resources, including respite services in the home and outside the home, visit ARCH National Respite Network.

The Family Caregiver Handbook from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) includes a section on Caregiver Support. It provides information on finding resources for caregivers; respite services; support from faith-based organizations; and Massachusetts and national organizations with caregiver support.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTION



When you're ready to discuss preplanning, you can speak with one of our knowledgeable funeral directors.

How Can I Get My Family Onboard with Preplanning?

With all the options available these days for funeral planning, it's more important than ever to preplan a funeral. This is an act of love to let loved ones know your wishes and prepare them for the type of final dispensation and burial that will not only carry out your wishes but also be the most beneficial to those left behind.

In most families, either one or both parents lead the decision-making when it comes to funeral planning. Adult children will defer to their parents, especially when the decision is being made for a spouse. However, when both parents have passed, the decision-making process changes.

"Some families have no issues at all, but for the majority you see old sibling rivalries come into play. As funeral directors, we are placed squarely in the middle of these dynamics and oftentimes have to lead the discussion in a way that honors the deceased while at the same time mediating on behalf of the siblings," said Co-President John Keohane.

"In years past, the issue was not as persistent as it has become. The breakdown of traditional values, declining preference for organized religion, and many families living in different parts of the country all muddle the process. It is for these reasons that preplanning one's funeral makes a lot of practical sense."

Keohane has been on the forefront of the advance planning movement for many years. We are fortunate to be the only funeral home on the South Shore offering a full-time Certified Preplanning Consultant who has extensive experience with all aspects of advance planning.

"I often share with families the experience my family had when my mother-in-law died. While the financial benefits of advance planning were helpful, the fact that the 'business' side of the arrangements were complete gave us the peace of mind we needed to focus solely on how we could enjoy the support of our family and friends in creating truly personal and meaningful ceremonies," said Joe Reardon, Vice President for Community Development and Advance Planning at Keohane. "This made all the difference in the world for our family."

If you're nervous about preplanning or talking with your spouse and children about it, start by asking your family to watch [this interview](#) with our Certified Preplanning Consultant. Joe talks with Debbie Lynn Tomey of Tufts Medical Center about the importance of preplanning on the Health Links segment of QATV.

Parents and siblings all can benefit from watching this informative interview. To learn more, go to www.qatv.org.

When you're ready to discuss preplanning, please contact Joe Reardon, Vice President for Community Development and Advance Planning at Keohane Funeral Homes at (617) 773-3551.

Learn about Advanced Funeral Planning.

Watch the video interview with Joe Reardon, Vice President for Community Development and Advance Planning at Keohane:

