

# Recognize Good<sup>®</sup> Legend 2025

## REMMER MACHAMER WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA



## LEGEND CEREMONY

December 26, 2025 | 11:00 a.m. | Texas State Cemetery

***Teenager Remmer Machamer has raised over \$130,000 for Wreaths Across America, sponsoring thousands of wreaths to adorn the graves of veterans at the Texas State Cemetery and across the state.***



**Visit Remmer's  
Legend Page**

Texas State Cemetery, 909 Navasota St, Austin, TX 78702

# Remmer Machamer



*Legendary Volunteerism*

## REMMER'S STORY

Teenager Remmer Machamer has raised over \$130,000 for Wreaths Across America, sponsoring thousands of wreaths to adorn the graves of veterans at the Texas State Cemetery and across the state.

Since 2018, **Remmer Machamer** has raised money to sponsor wreaths to lay on the 3,300 graves of U.S. veterans interned at the Texas State Cemetery. At the age of seven, Remmer accompanied his mother to a meeting with the Daughters of the American Revolution, where he learned about efforts by **Wreaths Across America** to lay wreaths on the graves of every U.S. veteran.

Wreaths Across America has a simple mission: "Remember fallen U.S. veterans; honor those who serve; and teach your children the value of freedom." This important day is an annual event that takes place every third Saturday in December at Arlington National Cemetery, as well as other cemeteries in the U.S., at sea, and abroad. Wreaths are laid as family and friends remember both those who made the ultimate sacrifice and those who currently serve in the armed forces.

Remmer was saddened to learn that 300 of the 3,300 U.S. veterans' graves at the Texas State Cemetery did not receive wreaths and was determined to make sure that all veterans interned would receive a wreath. "It's worth it for the veteran," he says. "I hope people will understand that it's not about me – it's about the veterans. They have risked their lives serving and protecting our country."



Each Volunteer Legend receives their own commemorative brick placed along the Lady Bird Lake.

In Remmer's first year, he wrote a speech and went door-to-door asking for donations to support Wreaths Across America, raising \$2,000. The following year, he doubled that. 2020 caused significant challenges in fundraising due to the COVID-19 pandemic, so he began reaching out to organizations that had in-person meetings where he could make presentations to help promote the purpose of Wreaths Across America – to Remember, Honor, and Teach by laying a wreath on the grave of fallen soldiers. By adding public speaking appearances to his fundraising repertoire and resuming the door-to-door campaign, Remmer raised nearly \$12,000 in 2020 through the generosity of patriotic Texans!

Remmer's fundraising efforts in 2021 and 2022 inspired a great number of volunteers at the Texas State Cemetery, and because all fundraising groups surpassed their fundraising goals, this location was able to share over 800 wreaths (in 2021 and again in 2022) with cemeteries in Texas that had not reached their wreath goals. Sharing extra wreaths with other cemeteries has always been Remmer's goal. "All of the soldiers should be remembered," he says.



Each year, RecognizeGood's selected Legends are celebrated during its Say Thanks, Austin Campaign.

This mural was presented during the 2022 Say Thanks, Austin Campaign



# ABOUT US



## RecognizeGood®

**RecognizeGood: THE Foundation** (commonly referred to as simply RecognizeGood®) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization designed to create three-sided partnerships between businesses, their employees and the communities in which both reside. RecognizeGood is branded as a partner and advisor to forward-thinking businesses, an advocate for the employees of those businesses, and an imaginative champion for all community nonprofits. Though each of the identity programs listed below is entirely unique, the common theme is simple – the illumination of GOOD in our community.

### WE RECOGNIZE

#### RecognizeGood.org

A platform for the illumination and sharing of everyday GOOD. At work or home, opportunities to show gratitude are endless, but by making a Thank You public at recognizegood.org we have the chance to inspire others.

- ❖ RecognizeGood Legends
- ❖ RecognizeGood Lighthouses
- ❖ Ethics in Business Award

### WE CONNECT

- ❖ Printing With Purpose
- ❖ Speaker & Book Series
- ❖ Nonprofit Partnerships
- ❖ Business in Community

*Illuminating* **GOOD** *in Our Community*

See the back of this program to see how you can help us find our next Legend!

## Today's Featured Program

### RecognizeGood Legends

The RecognizeGood Legendary Volunteer Award presented ten times a year, highlights ordinary individuals who go to extraordinary lengths for others. Includes a \$1,000 pay-it-forward donation to the nonprofit of award recipient's choice, in their name.

"Legends" are eligible to enter the **Say Thanks, Austin** campaign, in which the community expresses its gratitude and appreciation for these incredible individuals by casting Thank-Yous. The team receiving the most Thank-Yous earns a \$10,000 pay-it-forward donation, presented at City Hall during a closing ceremony as part of almost \$20,000 in total pay-it-forward donations.

Say Thanks Austin!

### Say Thanks, Austin - 2024 Legends

After a year where RecognizeGood celebrated its 150<sup>th</sup> volunteer Legend honoree and topped \$400,000 in charity donations celebrating those volunteers, the 15th annual Say Thanks Austin Campaign generated nearly 70,000 acts of gratitude toward ten inspiring local volunteers.

Of note, Mickey Perkins and Roger Smith of Schoolyard Dogs finished the campaign with the most Thank You votes, and a \$10,000 pay-it-forward donation was presented in their names at City Hall.

Pay-it-forward donations were also made to the following area nonprofits: Milam Adult Resource Center (MARC), Drive a Senior ATX, Oak Hill United Methodist, Lone Star Paralysis Foundation, Wonders & Worries, The Dog Alliance, Therapy Pet Pals of Texas, Backpack Friends, and MAS Cultura.

### LEGENDS CLASS OF 2024

 <p><b>Ricardo Zavala</b> From scholarships to community-building, Ricardo Zavala has served his east Austin neighborhood tirelessly for over 11 years through the nonprofit <b>Dove Springs Proud</b>.</p> 	 <p><b>Vicki Matustik</b> coordinates <b>Oak Hill United Methodist Church's</b> efforts to serve hundreds of unhoused neighbors in need each month.</p> 
 <p><b>Drake Trotter</b> After an unfortunate accident, Drake Trotter turned an overwhelming personal challenge into an opportunity to help others through "The Drake," a charity golf tournament where he's raised over \$150,000 for the <b>Lone Star Paralysis Foundation</b>.</p> 	 <p><b>Cheryl White</b> Few people understand and embrace the healing power of a dog more than Cheryl White, who's been faithfully volunteering with <b>The Dog Alliance</b> in Cedar Park for over 13 years.</p> 
 <p><b>Kevin Hines</b> For several years, Kevin Hines has been a tireless advocate for <b>Wonders &amp; Worries</b>, dedicating countless hours of volunteer time and raising funding to support their mission to support children through a parent's serious illness.</p> 	 <p><b>David &amp; Lynn Ashley</b> For over a decade, David and Lynn Ashley have been bringing smiles to patients at local healthcare facilities with the help of their furry friends through <b>Therapy Pet Pals of Texas</b>.</p> 
 <p><b>Diana Lindsey</b> Diana Lindsey has been faithfully serving the mission of <b>Backpack Friends</b> since they first launched in 2018, growing from an initial donation of 12 food-stuffed backpacks to kids in need to now more than 165,000 backpacks donated.</p> 	 <p><b>Mickey Perkins &amp; Roger Smith</b> Inspired by a dream, husband-and-wife duo Mickey Perkins and Roger Smith have employed neurodivergent adults for countless hours through the nonprofit they co-founded, <b>Schoolyard Dogs</b>.</p> 
 <p><b>Don Saegert</b> Over the past decade, Don Saegert has completed more than 15,000 trips with <b>Drive a Senior ATX</b>, dedicating nearly 12,000 hours of his time as well as completing home maintenance projects for seniors in need and spreading smiles everywhere he goes.</p> 	 <p><b>Cynthia Ferrell</b> Cynthia Ferrell is the co-director of the <b>Milam Adult Resource Center</b> and for over 15 Years, Cynthia has worked, ridden, and run to help adults with special needs in the Rockdale community.</p> 

# GET INVOLVED

Sometimes a simple thank you isn't enough to honor the extraordinary individuals who go above and beyond to help others. These volunteer legends who make our Central Texas community shine deserve recognition and celebration.

If you know someone for whom a simple thank you isn't enough or want to tell the world about someone who changed yours, let us know so that we can help illuminate the upstanding citizens who make our community special.

## NOMINATE A LEGEND

## SEND A THANK YOU

### Legend Nomination Form

Legend Name

Your Name

Your Phone

Your Email

### Thank You Note Form

Your Name

Your Email

Your Thank You Message



I grant to RecognizeGood the unrestricted right to use and publish the contents of my submission for promotional purpose, in any manner or medium. I hereby release RecognizeGood from all claims and liability relating to said submission.



Turn in your thank you to a RecognizeGood staff member or post your thank you online at [recognizegood.org/post-a-thank-you](https://recognizegood.org/post-a-thank-you).

## CONNECT WITH US



800-232-4810 • [illuminate@recognizegood.org](mailto:illuminate@recognizegood.org) • [recognizegood.org](https://recognizegood.org) • [@recognizegood](https://www.instagram.com/recognizegood)