

A Sarasota Observance Of Wreaths Across America

Monday, December 16, 2013 | Shelby Webb, The Herald-Tribune

SARASOTA NATIONAL CEMETERY - As the low hum of motorcycle engines echoed across the well-manicured lawn on Saturday, Alexis Samuels stood at attention.



The 17-year-old Sarasota Military Academy senior squinted in the sunlight, looking for her grandparents' shared grave. She began to walk, but stopped in front of a granite marker and looked at silently at the name etched into the stone: Cpl. Emerson O'Dell. Her family laid a wreath in front of the patriarch's tombstone. "It means more to me than just laying wreaths. You take time to respect and reflect on each" grave site, Alexis said.

More than 1,000 people joined Alexis and her family at the Sarasota National Cemetery Saturday morning to help lay evergreen wreaths adorned with red bows at nearly 7,000 graves. The event was part of the national Wreaths

Across America effort, which sponsors more than 800 wreath-laying ceremonies nationwide.

Victoria Finley, an advancement director with Sarasota Military Academy, said the school assumed the responsibility of finding donors willing to sponsor a wreath for \$15 each. The school hoped to have 6,500 wreaths donated. Instead, they ended up with 7,000 and sent 500 to the Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell. Finley said about 150 students from her school came to the cemetery, including about 90 who volunteered to wake up early on a weekend. "When they're adults, they'll remember this," Finley said. "Some of these kids will be veterans themselves one day." The Military Academy students and students from local JROTC programs stood silently at the front of each column of graves.

Family members laid their wreaths first, and some people lingered more than others. A woman put down her wreath and paused. She knelt down in front of a grave and rested her head against the stone. But family members of veterans and military academy students were not the only ones in attendance. More than 200 motorcycles filled the cemetery's parking lot, where riders represented bike groups — such as the Leathernecks, the Patriot Riders, the Blue Knights and the American Legion Riders — with patches sewn onto their leather vests. The bikers mingled with hundreds of senior citizens, some of whom laid down their canes so they could grasp an extra wreath to place in front of a grave.

Julian and Julie Alejos brought their two young sons. Julian, who will be deployed to Africa next month with the Air Force, said he wanted to instill the importance of honoring veterans in his 9- and 6-year-old sons. "We wanted to help out," Julian said, adding that he has seen wreath-laying ceremonies "on TV before, and I wanted the family to be a part of it." His youngest son, Jameson, wore a full aviation jumpsuit costume to try to match his father's fatigues.

Alexis, whose grandfather is buried at the cemetery, wore her military school's uniform as she talked with her mother Connie, her father Bill and younger sister Angelina. Bill said he had never seen so many people at the cemetery. At the wreath-laying ceremony five years ago "there were only 100 people here," Bill said. "It's very gratifying to see so many people." Alexis agreed. "It's nice to know that so many people came out to support people like my grandpa," she said through quivering lips. "But it's still difficult, because it's Christmastime and he's not here with us."

1. In appropriate paragraph form, compare and contrast the pros and cons synonymous with one actively employing his rights guaranteed under the first amendment of the United States Constitution to assemble peacefully adjacent to the Wreaths Across America memorial ceremony in protest to our military involvement in controversial international affairs. Provided the increased involvement of our nation overseas, outline a series of necessary proactive measures one may employ to protect the integrity of comparable military appreciation ceremonies domestically and abroad.. Thoroughly explain your reasoning and provide specific artifacts and evidence *not* limited solely to article above to support your response. Create and illustrate a Venn Diagram to effectively explore relationships and patterns and to make arguments about relationships between sets. **(LA.910.3.2.2; LA.910.1.6.2; MA.912.D.7.2; MA.912.A.10.1)**
2. Identify the theoretical probability in randomly selecting the following letters from the aforementioned capitalized "SARASOTA NATIONAL CEMETERY" with and without replacement: a. *P* (vowel then vowel), b. *P* (consonant then consonant), c. *P* (E then E), d. *P* (consonant then vowel), e. *P* (A then A), and f. *P* (letter then letter). Provide a complement to each event. Identify how these results may differ in the event experimental probability was employed as opposed to theoretical. When are these events dependent as opposed to independent? What percentage of

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Sarasota Military Academy Cadets actively participated in Wreaths Across America at Sarasota National Cemetery? (**MA.912.A.1.4; MA.912.A.2.13; MA.912.A.10.1; MA.912.A.1.1**)

3. In mathematics, an inequality is a statement how the relative size or order of two objects, *or* about whether they are the same or not. Define a variable and write two inequalities to model a scenario from the passage. Explain your mathematical reasoning in selecting either an open or closed dot as you graph your inequality. Explain how one might interpret phrases like "*at least*" and "*at most*" in an inequality in a real-world situation. Combine your responses into two unique compound inequalities and graph the solutions. (**MA.912.A.3.12; MA.912.A.3.4; MA.912.A.3.5**)
4. Infamous self-proclaimed never enrolled lifelong cadet Lunchmeat is adamant that provided his designated aerial location looking down upon Sarasota National Cemetery, provided elimination of inevitable barriers he can see in excess of 19 miles whereas his copilot argues it is an inconceivable estimate. Lunchmeat suggests one may accurately employ the formula $d = \text{square root of } 1.5h$ to estimate the distance d in miles to a horizon when h is the height of the viewer's eyes above the ground in feet. Estimate the distance in miles one can observe from Lunchmeat's seat in the event he is 200 feet above ground. Explain your reasoning and decide whether the solution is reasonable in the context of the original situation. (**MA.912.A.10.2; MA.912.A.6.2**)
5. Thus far, we have reasoned directly from given information to prove desired conclusions. In an indirect proof, you start by making the temporary assumption that the desired conclusion is false. By then showing that this assumption leads to a logical impossibility, you prove the original statement true by contradiction. Write an indirect proof regarding the allegations of protesters at Sarasota National Cemetery. (**MA.912.G.8.2; MA.912.G.8.4; MA.912.G.8.4**)
6. You want to approximate the height of a monument. In absence of appropriate judgment coupled with a plethora of advisors suggesting this is neither the appropriate time nor location, a rope is strategically affixed to the pinnacle of Veteran's head and fully extended in a diagonal fashion approximately 20 feet. An additional rope is attached to a stake at the base of the statue, which extends 16 feet forming vertex with the diagonal. Using the Pythagorean Theorem, find the height of the monument of the right triangle and determine if a Pythagorean Triple exists. Identify the formulas as well as specifically what information one may derive from obtaining the following measurements via the following trigonometric ratios when applied to the sculpture: tangent, sine, and cosine. Explain your reasoning and determine whether the solution(s) is reasonable in the context of the original situation. (**MA.912.G.5.1; MA.912.G.5.4; MA.912.T.2.1**)
7. In the best interest of ensuring a safe and secure environment conducive to safety, officials are targeting the specific location in which a large crowd of protestors is assembling at the cemetery. Local law enforcement wants to arrest multiple attendees for potentially inciting a riot. Naturally, they contract the intellectual services of the mathematics department who meticulously analyzed the scene, disaggregated data, and reconstructed the cemetery into a coordinate plane. The following readings were rendered: circle A center (-2, 2.5) and 7 feet away; circle B center (4, 6) 4 feet away; circle C (3, -2.5) 5 feet away. Write the standard equation of each circle. Graph the circles and identify the intersection of all three circles. (**MA.912.G.1.2; MA.912.G.6.6; MA.912.G.6.7**)
8. Identify and thoroughly support your reasoning regarding which of the following that best describes the author's attitude toward the significance of *Wreaths Across America*: flippant disregard, mild frustration, passive resignation or an informed citizen. Explain the intended purpose of this article and identify any indicators or supporting evidence, which suggest the author may possess a bias for or against individuals voluntarily in attendance to commemorate deceased American Heroes? Provide an inference a terminally ill Sarasota WWII Veteran may derive from this material. The point of view assumed throughout the passage is best described as first person, second person, third person, or a combination of first and third person. How may this article be referenced for an independent student research project addressing suitable burial coupled with remembrance of Veterans upon their demise? (**RI.9-10.1 – 10.6**)
9. Using contextual clues only, determine the most complete and accurate definitions of following italicized terms: *gratifying*, *quivering*, *instill*, *lingered*, *mingled*, *adorned*, *manicured*, *granite*, *etched*, and *patriarch* as obtained from the passage above. Additionally, use each word in a complete sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. (**LA.910.1.6.3; LA.910.1.6.1**)
10. **SARASOTA MILITARY ACADEMY WORD-OF-THE-WEEK** Create a concluding paragraph aligned with the passage above incorporating the following italicized term: *Peccadillo* n. a slight or trifling sin; a minor offense (**LA.910.1.6.1; LA.910.1.6.5**)

Lengi lifi Daughtry Times. Pað er allt. | Due Monday, January 6, 2014
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