



Date: 09/20/2017

## **Proclamation Statement for 'Saluting Branches, Day of Service'**

Welcome, fellow arborists and stewards of the landscape. A heartfelt 'Thank You' to each of you for being here this morning and for giving of yourselves to this national event, 'Saluting Branches, Arborists United for Veteran Remembrance'. Across America, at 45 Veterans cemeteries in 31 states, volunteers from our industry are coming together – coming together to demonstrate a collective appreciation and gratitude for those who have served our country and who have given so much through their actions in the Armed Services.

Whatever task assigned our Veterans, whether across the country or across the world, they went and they served. They left their homes. They left their jobs. They left their families. Many times at great peril. These men and women took on the fears, the risks, and the challenges of their times. They gave everything they had to give. Some of them were lost in battle and never came home. Others are resting in cemeteries such as this one today. Through 'Saluting Branches', we embrace this chance to give back in a small but very special way, to demonstrate our gratitude and appreciation for all that they and their families had to endure.

In honoring them we humbly offer our service toward creating a safer, stronger, and more beautiful place for the resting of these departed brothers and sisters. We ask that through our collective skills and abilities, we may preserve and enhance the memories of this place, for their families and friends, and for all who are drawn here to remember.

As arborists we understand the benefits of trees and other living plants in the landscape. We appreciate their natural beauty; understand what they need, and are committed to keep them healthy and strong.

We wish to acknowledge everyone who has contributed to, and who will be taking part in today's activities. Along with those of us at this location, and all those others gathered at other sites throughout the United States today, we wish to acknowledge the following people and organizations:

- The many companies and organizations who have donated their time and money to support this effort
- Our Cemetery Director here today, \_\_\_\_\_, who has given so much of his/her time and attention to make this possible
- ISA, TCIA, and all of other industry organizations who have embraced this event and promoted it across their constituencies and service areas, both local and national.

And finally to all of you who are participating today, we wish to say -- **THANK YOU SO MUCH!!!**

(Please feel free to include in your acknowledgements anyone/business that has donated lunch and/or morning coffee and donuts.)

- A special thank you to, \_\_\_\_\_, who has generously made available (lunch), (coffee and pastries) for our hard working volunteers.