

OCT2022

ROADSIDE READER



Photo courtesy Wreaths Across America

OPEN ENROLLMENT

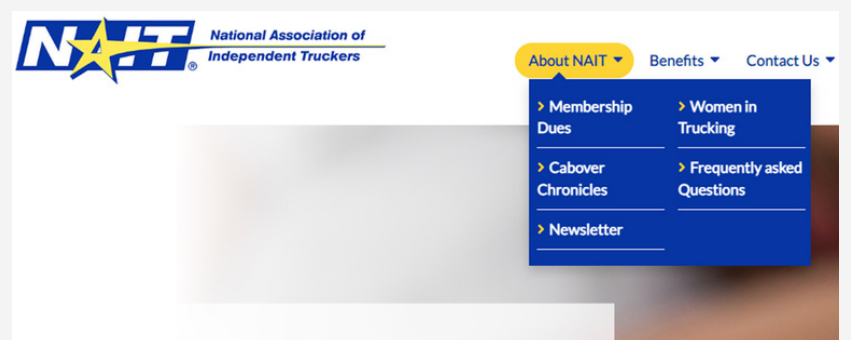
PLAN NOW FOR NOVEMBER

Open enrollment is a window of time that happens once a year – typically in the fall – when you can sign up for health insurance, adjust your current plan, or cancel your plan. It's usually limited to a few weeks. (If you miss it, you may have to wait until the open enrollment period in 2023 to make changes.)



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HEALTHCARE**

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Missed an issue of the NAIT Newsletter? We have all back issues on our website! On the Home page, click "About Us" and "Newsletter."

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FUN FACT

OCT. 8: National Fluffernutter Day!

In 1913, Emma and Amory Curtis of Melrose, Mass., invented Snowflake Marshmallow Creme. And then they published a recipe for a peanut butter and marshmallow creme sandwich - the earliest known example of a Fluffernutter.

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ROAD EATS

CHILI

This traditional chili recipe is just like mom used to make with ground beef, beans, and a simple homemade blend of chili seasonings:

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 medium yellow onion – diced
- 1 pound 90% lean ground beef
- 2 1/2 tablespoons chili powder
- 2 tablespoons ground cumin
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 1 1/2 cups beef broth
- 1 15 oz. can of petite diced tomatoes
- 1 16 oz. can of red kidney beans, drained
- 1 8 oz. can of tomato sauce

Directions

1. Heat olive in a large soup pot.
2. Add chopped onion and cook for 5 minutes.
3. Add ground beef.
4. Cook for 6-7 minutes.
5. Add chili powder, cumin, sugar, tomato paste, garlic powder, salt, pepper, and cayenne.
6. Stir until well combined.
7. Add diced tomatoes, kidney beans, beef broth, and tomato sauce.
8. Stir well.
9. Simmer for 20-25 minutes.
10. Let the chili rest for 5-10 minutes before serving.

- Top off your bowl with shredded cheddar cheese, sour cream, jalapenos, sliced green onions, diced avocado, and saltine or oyster crackers.



Who's Ready for Fall?





OCT. 22

National Make A Dog's Day

Give a dog the best day of its life with adoption from our partner at Atlanta Humane Society! Check out www.atlantahumane.org

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NAIT BENEFITS

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- Guaranteed Whole Life Insurance
- Guaranteed Term Life Insurance
- Critical Illness
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- Vision

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- Lodging
- Floral and Gift Basket Discounts
- Epic Vue
- TuneIn

Business Solutions

- NAIT Fuel Program
- Used Truck Purchase Program
- CDL Legal Assistance
- Computer Hardware & Software Discounts
- Form 2290 Truck Tax Assistance
- Heavy Duty Truck Parts
- Accountant & Tax Consultants/Preparation
- Mapping and Navigation App
- Cost-Friendly Sleep Test Mobile App

 To receive a quote for any of these programs, call **(888) 472-4114**.

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- Each column must contain numbers 1 to 9, without repetition
- The digits can only occur once per block



NAIT has partnered with Roadside Matters – 24/7 within the U.S. and Canada!
Contact NAIT Specialist Mona Brimeyer (877) 770-6248 for details.

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ABOUT NAIT

The National Association of Independent Truckers (NAIT) was founded in 1981 to support the needs of independent contractor small-business owners in the trucking industry.

Over the years, NAIT has established long-term partnerships with providers that share its dedication to the industry and has worked with them to develop a comprehensive catalog of benefits to serve its members.

NAIT Benefit Programs are designed with you in mind. We have specialized in utilizing the buying power of our membership to package benefits geared to your unique needs.



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WAA 'The best thing in trucking'

The trucking industry is a vital part of the Wreaths Across America ecosystem. And Don Queeney has a unique perspective, having been on the owner-operator side before joining WAA as its Director of Transportation.

This year's theme – find a way to serve – fits Don. He found a way to serve.

"In 2013, I was in my 30th year owning a trucking company outside of Norfolk, Virginia. One of our over-the-road drivers said, 'Hey, have you ever heard of

Wreaths Across America?' I had not. We were doing charitable work with Wounded Warrior at the time and six or seven other things in our market. So this guy is very diligent, and he stayed on me. I agreed to have our company haul for Wreaths in 2014. I grabbed a load for Arlington [National Cemetery]. ... That changed absolutely everything for me."

The same can be said for Morrill Worcester, owner of Worcester Wreath Company of Harrington, Maine. He was a 12-year-old paper boy when he won a trip to Washington D.C. Arlington National Cemetery made an indelible impression on him. In 1992, Worcester Wreath had a surplus of wreaths. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he could honor veterans. So, with the aid of Maine Sen. Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year.

In 2005, a photo of the stones at Arlington – adorned with wreaths and covered in snow – went viral. Thousands of requests poured in from across the country. So, two years later, Wreaths Across America was formed as a non-profit 501-(c)(3) to expand the effort and support groups around the country who wanted to do the same. The mission of the group is simple: Remember. Honor. Teach.

Early in Don's relationship with WAA, he made a miscalculation that he jokes about to this day.

"This was my naivety at the time. 'How hard can this be?' " he said. "At the time, there were 400 trailer loads. And I'm like, 'We do this in our sleep at our moving company. I could do this with a grease board, a box full of file folders, some pencils, and a little assistance on the phones.'

"I realized before very long that I was so, so wrong. But, then, I found out there's much more to it – unbelievably more."

"Here's to another successful year of what is the best thing in trucking!"

– Mike Eggleton Jr.
Raider Express

Ultimately, the relationship turned into employment. Don succeeded Debbie Sparks as the WAA Director of Transportation. "I jumped in and wanted to fix the world ... and realized it didn't need fixing.

"WAA had something really special going on," he said. "It just grows so much each year. A fellow on the radio likens us to setting up a Fortune 500 transportation company for six weeks a year. It's like that, really; it's amazing. We'll ship to 3,600 locations this year and probably exceed 2.5 million wreaths on close to 600 tractor-trailer loads."

While the logistics of moving so many wreaths to so many places can seem

overwhelming, Don points to the volunteers who make Wreaths Across America a success. "The dedication of all these volunteers ... every location has a minimum of two or three volunteers that help make it happen," he said. "And there are sponsorship groups that raise the monies behind them, truckers, and the people that lay the wreaths.

"We use a cliché, 'It's more than a wreath,' and it's true. You start doing this work and coming in contact with these people that really dig it and then stumbling upon somebody that maybe didn't know anything about it but was so moved by it. In some cases, they're an average citizen. Then you meet that newly minted Gold Star wife who stops by her husband's headstone to find a fresh balsam wreath on it and tries to figure out who did this. Then they learn about [WAA], and they become involved."

The annual wreath-laying will culminate Saturday, Dec. 17, to conclude WAA's trek from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery. The pilgrimage has become known as the world's largest veterans' parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes, and communities.

Asked if one memory encapsulates his time with Wreaths Across America, Don quickly replied: "Let's just say I have a hundred of them."

However, one stands out. "Out shuffles a World War II vet with a walker," Don said. "He was bound and determined to participate. A couple of guys helped get the wreaths out there, and we put a box of wreaths across the bars of his walker. He leaned the box against his chest, then shuffled back to make sure he was part of this whole thing. ... Man, that kind of stuff keeps you wanting to keep doing this.

"This thing is much bigger than me – the number of people our program has impacted. We all know how important it is. It's so much more than just a wreath.

"Find a way to serve," he added. "It doesn't have to be serving WAA's mission. It could be any mission, and it doesn't even have to do with the military – find a way to participate in your community. So, yeah, that's what keeps me going – finding a way to serve."

