*ATLANTA AREA COUNCIL*

# *BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA*

1800 Circle 75 Pkwy, S.E. Atlanta, Georgia 30339-3055 Phone 770-989-8820

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On Site Contact: Bob Cato, Chairman
770-298-5540 (C)

Boy Scouts Contact: Jenna Knight
770-956-3178 (W)
404-580-1071 (C)

## SCOUTS PAY RESPECT TO FALLEN SOLDIERS

**ATLANTA, Georgia (May 18, 2009)**—A tradition of Scouts from all over metro Atlanta placing American Flags on the gravestones of fallen soldiers will continue this Saturday, May 23, 2009 for Memorial Day. The Boy Scouts of America has been a part of this ceremony since 1946. Last year there were more than 1,600 Scouts in attendance. The ceremony is held at Marietta National Cemetery and it will begin at 8:30 am.

With over 18,000 gravestones to honor, Scouts of all ages come to pay respects. Dressed fully in their uniforms, Scouts place a flag for each soldier and then salute their grave stone. The Scouts receive a community service patch which is provided by the National Memorial Day Association of Georgia. There will be many guest speakers and George Washington is rumored to appear.

Bob Cato, a volunteer leader for the Atlanta Area Council Boy Scouts, has been in charge of organizing and putting the ceremony together since 2004. Mr. Cato has grown the event from 700 participants to over 1600. He is sure that there will be an equal if not greater amount of Scouts attending this year's ceremony. "I think Memorial Day Weekend is special because it's a time to reflect, step back and salute the veterans of all wars and give thanks for living in a free country. I think the Scouts placing American flags on the gravesite of fallen soldiers is a great example of this," said Bob Cato. "This ceremony is a shining example of the prestige and respect that the Boy Scouts show to this country."

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**About the Atlanta Area Council, Boy Scouts of America:**
Since 1910, the Boy Scouts of America has been the nation's foremost program of character development and values-based leadership training for youth ages 7-20. The Atlanta Area Council covers 13 metro-Atlanta Counties including Carroll, Cherokee, Clayton, Cobb, Dekalb, Douglas, Fulton, Gwinnett, Haralson, Newton, Paulding, Pickens, and Rockdale. For more information on the Atlanta Area Council, visit www.atlantabsa.org.

The Marietta National Cemetery is located in downtown Marietta at 500 Washington Avenue. Parking is available at the Cobb County Public Library at 266 Roswell Street.