



G.A.R. Cemetery



MIAMI MATTERS



Kim Horn
G.A.R. Cemetery Director

This month marked the kick-off of the Miami Convention & Visitors Bureau/Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce “Miami Matters” campaign. This partnership program is designed to promote Miami and encourage people within the community to share unique things about Miami and Ottawa County with visitors that come into our area.

“Miami Matters” is important because it creates opportunities for tourists to spend dollars locally that result in sales tax revenue which can fund improvements; such as roads, recreational opportunities, future improvements, and G.A.R. Cemetery improvements.

You may be surprised to know that Oklahoma is the only state that municipalities depend on sales tax as their sole source of revenue. This is unique from municipalities in other states, which receive revenues from varying sources such as property tax.

G.A.R. Staff is ready to promote the “Miami Matters” campaign. We have many visitors to the cemetery office each year doing genealogical research. Office Manager Nancy Bro attended the “Miami Matters” training this week and is more informed to let visitors know about opportunities in our community.

Other entities within Miami will also be informing visitors about historical tourism at G.A.R. and will direct them to visit some of our most notable graves. This includes the British Flyers, Cal Campbell (who was shot and killed by Bonnie and Clyde), John Beaver (who was a Second Chief of the Quapaw Tribe), and Mutt and Lovell Mantle (who are the parents of Mickey Mantle).

G.A.R. is a unique cemetery that we want people to visit and understand more about both the history and culture of our area. The G.A.R. Staff are all City of Miami employees that know what it means to work in municipal government and serve their community. The “Miami Matters” campaign is a natural next step to share our community with visitors. We want to promote to visitors what we already know..... “Miami Matters”.

For more information about the “Miami Matters” campaign:

www.miamiokchamber.com

www.visitmiamiok.com

Social Media Hashtags:

#MyAmUuOK

#Route66MiamiOK



Fred Billups
G.A.R. Cemetery Manager

"In every conceivable manner, the family is a link to our past, bridge to our future." – Alex Haley author of the book "Roots"

Many seem to think of a cemetery as a resting place for the deceased and, well it is, but, it is so much more too. It is a celebration of family. I use the word "family" in a much broader sense. To not only reflect relatives, but our friends and our community.

When you visit our cemetery, I'm sure you look out over the grounds and reflect on your loved ones and remember the laughs, the heartwarming moments, and the love. Every headstone and burial plot is a monument to the family that has passed on. It says you were loved, and you will be missed.

We at the G.A.R. have been working hard mowing and weed eating between the April rains and trying to prepare the cemetery for the upcoming Memorial Day celebration.

Memorial Day, born out of the Civil War, is a day of remembrance that celebrates the men and women that have laid their time, service, and lives down for our country and the freedoms we all enjoy. It is a celebration of the love and laughs of our family.

With all that said, I leave you with this quote:





Nancy Bro

G.A.R. Cemetery Office Manager

Memorial Day

The City of Miami, G.A.R. Cemetery cordially invites the public to their annual Memorial Day Ceremony to be held on **Monday, May 29th**, at **2801 North Main, Miami, OK 74354**. The ceremony will take place at the Historical G.A.R. Monument located at the south end of the cemetery. You can access this location by entering the southernmost gate entrance.

This year the Ceremony will begin at **9:00 a.m.** G.A.R. Cemetery Director; Kim Horn, reflected that the new time that was implemented (2) years ago has worked well for all who attend, and stated that immediately following the ceremony, Brown-Winters Funeral Home will be serving refreshments in the gazebo.

Participants this year are: the American Legion (Post #147); Marine Corps League (Northeastern Oklahoma Detachment); the 4 State Friends of Veterans; David Rountree, City of Miami and Associate, Piper for the City of Tulsa Pipes and Drums, will perform a patriotic ensemble and *Amazing Grace*; Amanda Cole, Joplin High School Music and Band Director will be the bugler, and her Special Choir, from Joplin High School, will sing our National Anthem, *"The Star-Spangled Banner"*.

We are honored to welcome this year's guest speaker, Third Class Petty Officer, AZ3 Carol Larkin. Ms. Larkin served in Naval Aviation Administration. Her last duty station was NAS Oceana Virginia with the Grim Reapers Air Squadron VF 101, and, she received the National Defense Metal in 1974 for service during the Vietnam era.

The Flag Ceremony will be conducted by local area Boy Scout, Mason Compton, Troop #50. Mason has been working on his Eagle Scout badge, and approached G.A.R. Cemetery about working on a project to map out Veteran's Markers. He spent several months doing this with the help of some volunteers and has completed 17 blocks in the oldest part of the cemetery. This consisted of covering an area of 2,596 graves.

This year, like year's past, the local Scout Troops will organize the Scouts and volunteers to help with the placement of approximately 3000 flags upon Veterans graves over Memorial Day weekend. Cemetery Office Manager Nancy Bro stated, "These boys and girls always do an amazing job placing the flags upon our Military Veterans graves. Their spirit and enthusiasm is contagious, and I always look forward to this event. We also want to inform the public that the cemetery office always has extra flags available year around for their use."

We at G.A.R. would also like to thank Vietnam Veteran, Melvin Cook for the donation of 144 flags to help with our annual flag placement event, and Jerry Cole for being here every year to hand out small flags to all who attend our Ceremony.

For more information please call G.A.R. Cemetery at (918) 541-2288

The G.A.R. Legacy

Page | 5

PFC Leonard E Eulitt

Birth: December 15, 1943

Death: February 9, 1968

Vietnam War

Thua Thien-Hue province

BURIAL: 3/1/1968

Leonard Eulitt was just 24 years old when he died in battle during the Vietnam War. He was a Private First Class E3, and was in the Light Weapons Infantry for the Army, Selective Service. C CO, 2ND BN, 12TH CAVALRY, 1ST CAV DIV, USARV.

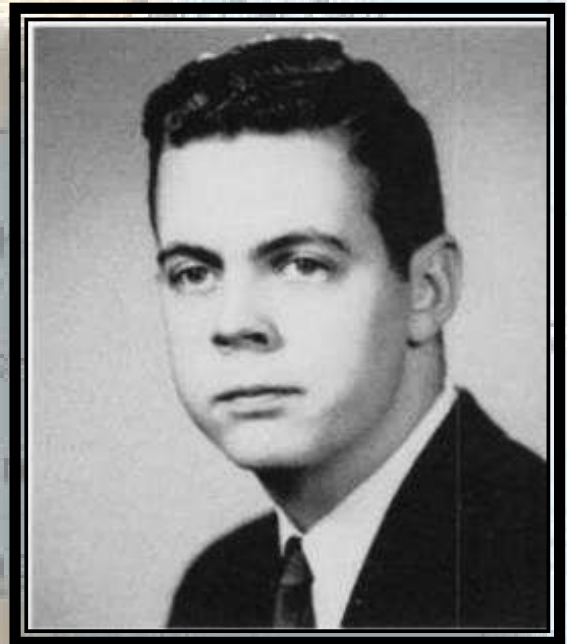
On January 12, 1968 Leonard began his short military career, and less than a month later he lost his life during a battle that took place in South Vietnam in the province of Thua Thien.

The following is an excerpt from page 55 of the book "The 1968 Tet Offensive Battles of Quang Tri City and Hue" by Erik Villard

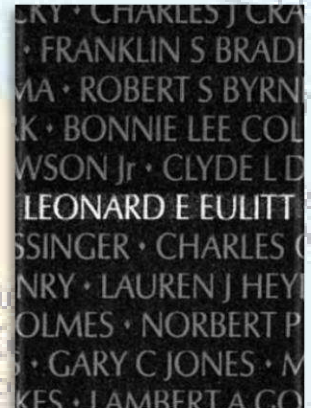
http://www.history.army.mil/html/books/vietnam/tet_battles/tet.pdf

"On 9 February, the 3d Brigade commander instructed Colonel Sweet's battalion on Nha Nhan to probe Thon La Chu from the south. As the 2d Battalion, 12th Cavalry, moved out that morning, accompanied by the South Vietnamese platoon from the hill outpost, the men encountered a squad of well-camouflaged snipers and at least one spotter at the base of the hill. North Vietnamese bullets and mortar fragments killed two Americans and wounded twelve others before a team of cavalrymen outflanked the enemy, killing at least three of the sharpshooters.

More trouble lay ahead. As the unit was crossing a rice field that led to the village of Thon Bon Tri, a small wooded settlement fifteen hundred meters south of Thon La Chu, a battalion or more of North Vietnamese opened fire from the tree line. The Americans quickly lost another two men killed and ten wounded. Unable to advance and with darkness fast approaching, Colonel Sweet decided to pull his unit back to the woods at the foot of Nha Nhan for the night."



Map location of
Thua Thien, Vietnam



Leonard's Name appears on
Panel 38E, Line 049 of the
Vietnam Memorial Wall.



G.A.R. Cemetery Welcomes



AmeriCorps

Meg Campbell (Team Leader) along with 7 of her teammates have been spending much of their time here on the grounds of G.A.R. Cemetery working diligently at scraping, cleaning, and painting the historical and ornate wrought iron fence that borders the east and south edges of the cemetery.

'AmeriCorps engages more than **80,000** Americans in intensive service each year at 21,600 unique sites including nonprofits, schools, public agencies, and community and faith-based groups across the country. Since the program's founding in 1994, more than **1 million** AmeriCorps members have contributed more than **1.4 billion hours** in service across America while tackling pressing problems and mobilizing more than 2.3 million volunteers for the organizations they serve.'

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/ameri-corps>

We are very happy to have these wonderful young adults contribute many hours of service to this project, with their help our fence is getting a much-needed facelift. But, G.A.R. Cemetery isn't the only location that benefited from the AmeriCorps group. Some of the other locations included in their itinerary are the City Library, Armory, The Shawnee Tribe, and the Animal Shelter.

Learn more about AmeriCorps at:
www.nationalservice.gov

Find this video on YouTube at:
<https://youtu.be/umw2ZkPscs>

Corporation for
**NATIONAL &
COMMUNITY
SERVICE** 



Above: Meg Campbell, Nyrasia Lomax, Spencer Schryver, Nora Snyder, Ashley Taylor, Jillian Gellman, Vita Peirzchala, and Shawn Simmons
Not pictured: Ossian Pages, Hailey Schunk



What's New at G.A.R.

Page | 7



Jason Miller, from Ann's Flowers and Gifts spent the biggest part of the day on Tuesday, May 9th planting beautiful flowers at the British graves. Thank you Jason! They look Amazing!!!



5 new pink Crepe Myrtle trees were planted this spring in G.A.R. Cemetery. Thank you Larry Hines from L & K Landscaping for your hard work! We can't wait to see them in bloom!!!



Crew working hard to patch some of the worst areas in the cemetery. Happy we got some sunshine to be able to get this done! Thank you for all you do!!!

Genealogy

Miami Public Library

200 N Main * Miami, OK

Every Family has a History....
What's Yours?

Barbara Becker 918-541-2292

Staff Hours

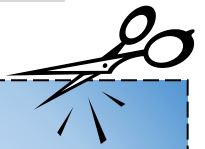
Mon, Wed, Thu. 10:00 am - noon, 1:00-5:00 pm

Tues 9:00 a.m. - noon, 1:00-4:00 pm

geniedpt@miami.lib.ok.us www.miamipl.okpls.org



Clip and Save!



G.A.R. Cemetery

Decoration Removal Schedule

****All Decorations Must Be Removed from Graves by 8:00 a.m.**

On The Dates Listed**

<u>DECORATION REMOVAL</u>	<u>DATE</u>
First Monday in February	02/06/2017
Second Monday Following Easter	04/24/2017
First Monday Following Memorial Day	06/05/2017
First Monday in October	10/02/2017

- Wrought iron basket hangers are not permitted except for the time period of December 15th through January 15th and one week prior to Memorial Day until the first Monday following Memorial Day.
- Notices for our decoration removal schedule will be posted on signs at cemetery entrances the week preceding decoration removals.
- All decorations not collected by date and time listed will be disposed of with no exceptions.
- For more information about the G.A.R. Cemetery decoration removal schedule, please call the cemetery at 918-541-2288.

Adopt~A~Flag *Order Today!*

For more information:

Call: (918) 541-2288

Email: nbro@miamiokla.net

Or visit: www.miamiokla.net

For a printable Policy and Application!



2017 EVENT SCHEDULE

- Memorial Day Ceremony Monday, May 29, 2017 @ 9:00 a.m.
- British Flyers Remembrance Ceremony - October 21, 2017 @ 10:30 a.m.

Do you know someone that wants to get our Newsletter?

Here's How!

Phone: (918) 541-2288 email: nbro@miamiokla.net web: www.miamiokla.net

CONTACT US

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Or Visit us at: 2801 N Maim, Miami, OK

