

# G.A.R. CEMETERY

FAMILY \* HERITAGE \* LEGACY \* EDUCATION

## The Oak Tree

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## Historical Signage

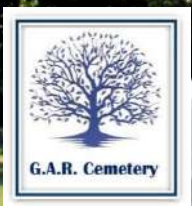
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## The Importance of Symbols

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## The Director's Desk



**Kim Horn**

HR/G.A.R. Cemetery



(Above) Close-up of the Willow Oak Tree Leaves.



**"*Quercus phellos* (willow oak)"** is a North American species of a deciduous tree in the red oak group.

It is native to the eastern and central United States, and It is a medium-sized tree growing to 65–100 ft tall. It is distinguished from most other oaks by its leaves, which are shaped like willow leaves.

It is one of the most prolific producers of acorns, an important food tree for squirrels, deer, and other animals. It begins acorn production around 15 years of age, earlier than many oak species.

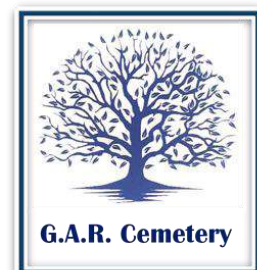
My favorite tree in G.A.R. Cemetery is located on the South end of the Cemetery in the G.A.R. section. This oak (it's a Willow Oak, I believe) greets you as you enter the South entrance to G.A.R.

This special oak is located not far from the first gravesite in G.A.R. which was in 1892. It must be well over 100+ years old. It has grown and thrived within G.A.R. withstanding all kinds of weather over the years.

When I read the poem entitled "The Oak Tree", I thought of our special oak and how like in the poem its roots have stretched and grown stronger in the soil at G.A.R. Our oak stands as a symbol for our families of strength and endurance. It also stands as a symbol for the G.A.R Staff that like our oak, our tenure at the Cemetery has roots that will stretch and grow stronger with our care.

You may have noticed the G.A.R. Cemetery logo. Symbolizing the oak tree, it represents all that we stand for;

*Strength, Endurance, Stability, Protection.*



# *The Oak Tree*

A MIGHTY WIND BLEW NIGHT AND DAY.  
IT STOLE THE OAK TREE'S LEAVES AWAY.  
THEN SNAPPED ITS BOUGHS  
AND PULLED ITS BARK  
UNTIL THE OAK WAS TIRED AND STARK.  
BUT STILL THE OAK TREE HELD ITS GROUND  
WHILE OTHER TREES FELL ALL AROUND.  
THE WEARY WIND GAVE UP AND SPOKE  
"HOW CAN YOU STILL BE STANDING OAK?"

THE OAK TREE SAID, I KNOW THAT YOU  
CAN BREAK EACH BRANCH OF MINE IN TWO,  
CARRY EVERY LEAF AWAY,  
SHAKE MY LIMBS AND MAKE ME SWAY.  
BUT I HAVE ROOTS STRETCHED IN THE EARTH,  
GROWING STRONGER SINCE MY BIRTH.  
YOU'LL NEVER TOUCH THEM, FOR YOU SEE  
THEY ARE THE DEEPEST PART OF ME.

UNTIL TODAY, I WASN'T SURE  
OF JUST HOW MUCH I COULD ENDURE.  
BUT NOW I'VE FOUND WITH THANKS TO YOU,  
I'M STRONGER THAN I EVER KNEW.

By: John Ray Ryder Jr.





**FRED BILLUPS**  
G.A.R. Cemetery  
Manager



## **Nobly Advancing**

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.” Gettysburg Address Abraham Lincoln.

Most of us learned this in school and a lot of us can recite this line from memory. This is one of the most influential speeches in American history. But there are a few things that have been overlooked through the passage of time.

I bet most of you read that in your head in a metered baritone voice. Lincoln’s actual voice was high and reedy, more Justin Bieber than Bruce Springsteen. Many will remember that the speech was jotted down on an envelope on the way to the ceremony. Well, actually, there have been no less than five rough drafts surface over the years of the speech, so the address was well thought out. Abraham Lincoln was not the main speaker that day. It was a gentleman by the name of Edward Everett, considered a great American orator at the time. He delivered a 2-hour long speech before Lincoln delivered his 2-minute address.

Lost from the zeitgeist that this address was given at the dedication of the Soldiers' National Cemetery in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, the cemetery being created for Union casualties of the July 1st to 3rd, 1863 Battle of Gettysburg in the Civil War. While the first sentence of Gettysburg Address is by far the most remembered, being that I work in the cemetery business, I tend to reflect often on another sentence. “It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced.” Gettysburg Address Abraham Lincoln.

This is how I feel, that cemeteries are a memorial to the past of which the future is built. Always remember the sacrifice and teaching of those who went before us, and to honor them in some way for the mark they have left on this world not to be forgotten. The staff of G.A.R. Cemetery is in a fortunate position to help people reconnect with lost family and friends but also help them deal with new loss in some small way. This is our unfinished work and we hope in some way we are nobly advancing.



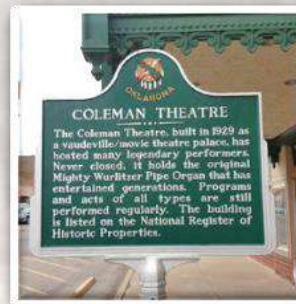
**Nancy Bro**  
G.A.R. Cemetery  
Office Manager

## ***H**ave you seen these historical signs?*

They were obtained from the Oklahoma Historical Society Marker Program that landmarks notable historical sights; one is in front of The Coleman Theatre Beautiful and the other by the Gateway Sign that arches over south Main street by Steve Owens Blvd.

We at G.A.R. Cemetery are well on the way to getting two (2) of these prestigious signs! With the help from Glenda Longan, City of Miami's Grant Coordinator, we were awarded a grant from Wal-Mart in the amount of \$1900, bringing us almost half way to reaching our goal of \$4,000. We plan to place one at the main entrance gate that will share a brief history of our origin. The other will be placed along side our British Cadets to share their part of Miami's story.

Sharing our history is very important to us. We have come to realize that there is a vast amount of people that truly do not know about G.A.R. Cemetery's rich history. And, by placing these beautiful signs on the grounds everyone who visits will be able to learn a small bit of our heritage even when we are not available.



These signs are made of cast aluminum and will last for countless years. Please call us if you have any questions at **(918) 541-2288**.

If you would be interested in donating funds to help us obtain these invaluable signs you may mail your donation to the following address:

**G.A.R. Cemetery**  
**PO BOX 1288**  
**Miami, OK 74354**

Or, stop by the office M-F 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. at:

**2801 N Main**  
**Miami, OK 74354**





In this video, Dr. Wolfelt talks about the value of symbols during a time of loss.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDlrNU6rKW4&feature=youtu.be>

## Symbols Convey Love

When words are inadequate, we often use symbols that express our love. For example, people will often send flowers or food to a family after hearing about the passing of a loved one. These symbols help us to support each other when words fail. Kind words are important, but it is often beneficial to accompany these with a representation of love and support.

## Symbols Facilitate Expression

In addition to showing support, symbols also facilitate natural expression. The ultimate symbol at a funeral is the precious body of a loved one that animated life. Another example is the headstone, a symbol that we can return to again and again, even generations after a loss to honor those who have gone before us.

## Symbols Aren't About Logic

Symbols shouldn't be tied down to literal or logical interpretation. We all know that flowers die. This doesn't mean that they aren't a powerful symbol of life. It may not seem like the family needs another tuna casserole when they already have a mountain of food...but that isn't the point. It's not about giving a logical gift, it's about what the gift represents. Symbols provide meaning and communicate emotions that words fail to capture.

Dr. Alan D. Wolfelt is an author, educator, and grief counselor with over 30 years of experience working with bereaved families. He has written many best-selling books on grief and loss, including *Healing Your Grieving Heart* and *The Journey Through Grief*. Dr. Wolfelt serves as the Director of the Center for Loss and Life Transition. Visit him online at [www.centerforloss.com](http://www.centerforloss.com).

To learn more, visit Funeral Basics Webpage at: <https://www.funeralbasics.org>

## January

Howard Knight  
Doyle G. Howell  
Teresa Collins  
Anita Faye Spoon  
Merle DeMier  
RosaLea Garritson  
Louise J. Warren  
Charlyssa Smith  
Ella Alsbury  
Betty Jo Dean  
Judith Ann Hogan  
Norbert Rothe  
Carolyn Jean Barton  
Douglas Wilson  
David Wilkinson

## February

Dorothy Leona Davis  
Roy Maxton Carr  
Robert R. Rabel  
Kimberly Sue Morey  
Brenda Sue Hogan  
Larry King  
Eileen Brisbois  
Juanita V. Stafford  
Jim R. Audrain  
Parry Jane Lafalier  
Oleta Irene Hayton  
Pedro Yanez  
Frank Howard Frazier

## March

Myrna D. Cawyer  
"Jim" James Earl Thomas  
Shirley Payton  
Violet Foster  
Robert L. McDaniel Jr.  
Kari Zoe Puryear Arnold  
Marion Joan McMinn  
Patricia A. Holderfield  
Katherine C. Holcom  
Brian Lee Fox  
Thelma Mae Fouts  
Veta D. Williams  
Mary Jane Divine  
Allan Garrett  
Billy W. Boyer

## April

Sandra Ann Ray  
Larry Alan Mayes  
Patricia Turner

## April continued...

Kenneth Ray Brown  
Gloria Ann Zimmerman  
Mary Elizabeth Manning  
Roberta Louise Williams  
Shirley Brashear  
Jerry Black  
Stanley R. Green  
Grace E. McMullin  
Herman C. McMullin  
George Niceley  
Margie Maude Arnold  
Daisy Waldon  
Orville Stockstill Jr.

## May

Linda Gray  
Vera Maxine Jones  
Patsy Louise Urban  
Nadine E. Watts  
Robert E. "Goose" McGowen  
Robert Carl Tinsley  
Iris L. Jones  
Allen Earl McFarland  
Kelly Lynn Collins  
Steven Alan Ellison Jr.  
Brenda Joyce Ray

## June

Justin Lloyd Jackson  
Clyde Eugene "Gene" Yant  
Wanda Louise Campbell  
Jean Doris Craig-Osborn  
Opal Odell Thornton  
Tena Marie Padley  
Mary Alice Hedges  
Alvin Bernard Krumery  
Dixie Miller

## July

Lois M. Smith  
Lou Ellen Cawyer  
Lula Covington  
Elmer Leroy Hile  
Thomas Alvin Beaman

## August

Georgya Lee Crawfish St. John  
Virginia Chrismon  
Nadine Wanda Epps  
Colleen Joyce Carpenter  
Bettie Mae Gering  
Nancy D. Clarkson  
Kelly Deneen Ross

## August continued...

Cynthia Sue Weece  
Julia Tressa Upton  
Toney Marie Schmidt  
Donald D. Williams  
Bobby Ray Key  
Martha Jo Anderson  
Reba Woods  
Betty Ridenour

## September

Timra Durburow  
Donnie Dean Stogsdill  
Walter Gene Huston  
Illa Rae Stinson  
Betty Mae Stover  
Harold Revis Stanford III

## October

Vickie Yvonne Foster  
Vernon Chelone Wilson  
Shirley Nodine Maynard  
John W. Cherry II  
Joseph L. Schaeffer II  
Alvin Eugene Baker  
Deborah Fanning  
Louis Leon Hile  
John Dean Worley

## November

Donald Duniphin  
Leman Brewer Clarkson  
Dillard Glenn Nixon  
Dale Coltharp  
Wiley David Austin  
Hope Larue Wright  
Linda Louise Roberts  
Michael Allen Ketcher  
Earl D. Rollins  
Carol Sue Jones  
Bruce Allen Smith Jr.  
Hollis R. Morris

## December

Marion H. Gladden  
Bobbie M. Parrish  
Phil Crosby  
Rickey Lee French  
Sandra Sue Barnes  
David Howard Pritchard  
Cheryl Darlene Scantlin  
Mearl J. Redden  
Danny Edward Saenz  
Cindy Renick



# Genealogy

Miami Public Library

200 N Main \* Miami, OK

Barbara Becker

geniedept@miami.lib.ok.us

www.miamipl.okpls.org

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

## Adopt~A~Flag

A one-time \$50 fee will get you a 3' x 5' flag and pole, with a personalized plaque "In Honor of", or "In Memory of" your loved one.

**Order by May 3rd  
and have yours displayed  
This Memorial Day!**

For more information:

Call: (918) 541-2288

Email: [nbro@miamiokla.net](mailto:nbro@miamiokla.net) - Or visit: [www.miamiokla.net](http://www.miamiokla.net)

"Grief only exists  
where love lived first."

-Francesca Cox

"May love be what  
you remember  
most."

-DARCE SIMS

"Grief is the  
price we pay  
for love..."

- Queen Elizabeth II

## G.A.R. Cemetery

### Decoration Removal Schedule

**\*\*All Decorations Must Be Removed from Graves By 8:00 a.m. On the Dates Listed\*\***

#### DECORATION REMOVAL

#### DATE

First Monday in February

02/04/2019

**Second Monday Following Easter**

**04/29/2019**

First Monday Following Memorial Day

06/03/2019

First Monday in October

10/07/2019

- Wrought iron basket hangers are not permitted except for the time period of December 15<sup>th</sup> through January 15<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Grief

never ends...  
But it changes.  
It's a passage,  
not a place to stay.  
Grief is not a sign  
of weakness, nor  
a lack of faith...  
It is the price of love.

Author Unknown

#missingyou