

G.A.R. Cemetery

FAMILY * HERITAGE * LEGACY



G.A.R. Cemetery would like to extend an invitation for you to join us on Saturday May 25th at 8:00 a.m. and help the local Scouts, B.A.C.A. and other volunteers decorate Veteran's markers for Memorial Day. This is an annual tradition that we have enjoyed for many years. The cemetery, American Legion, and other Veteran's organizations have supplied the flags each year for this event. G.A.R. Cemetery have them available for the public to pick up at the office year-round to decorate their loved one's graves.

Our Favorite Things



Top Left: Keith Babbitt, Cemetery Maintenance I.

Many of you know I am a veteran. My primary duty station was with the 101st airborne division. Simply put, I feel as if this man is my brother. Every time I see this marker it brings back a flood of memories that I wouldn't trade for the world!

Top Right: Fred Billups, Cemetery Manager.

I love the story behind this. During WWI there were men enlisted just to go find wood and produced hand crafted parts to make airplanes for the war effort. And it also shows how big a deal the growing aircraft industry was. Below is a link to more information on the spruce squadron.
http://swansongrp.com/spruce_units.html



Left: Missy Russell, G.A.R. Cemetery Intern.

One of my favorite things to do in G.A.R. is to see how many different hearts I can find while on my walks.



Right: Nancy Bro, G.A.R. Cemetery Office Mgr.

My favorite marker isn't new and shiny. It's old, worn and tattered. But it is one of the stateliest monuments in our cemetery. It belongs to one of the founding fathers, of the Grand Old Army of the Republic (G.A.R.), R.M.J. Shriver, commander of the J.B. McPherson Post No. 11.





O.C. Macklin

Kim Horn, HR/G.A.R. Cemetery Director.

My favorite markers at G.A.R. aren't because they are the most ornate or descriptive. They are my favorite markers for the story that they represent. O.C. Macklin was a WWII Veteran who the G.A.R. Staff came to know very well. O.C. would come to the cemetery on almost a daily basis to visit the graves of his wives Lillian and Beth. O.C. would tell us that he was blessed to have had the love of two good women in his life and he was married to each of them for over 30 years. His first wife Lillian is buried in the Cooper section of G.A.R. in the Southwest corner of the cemetery. His second wife Beth is buried in Garden of Hope in the Northwest section of the Cemetery. O.C. would make his daily visits to the graves and then would often stop by the cemetery office to say hello to the staff and visit. I specifically remember one year when we had a large snowstorm and the staff dug a path to each of the graves so O.C. could continue to visit. A dog, who was a black Labrador mix, came to G.A.R. one summer and decided to stay. O.C. became friendly with the dog on his visits and the dog would follow his vehicle so O.C. took the dog home with him on one of those occasions. After that we would see the dog riding in O.C.'s pickup with him, with a pink collar. O.C. is now laid to rest next to his wife Beth. He passed away on February 5th, 2016. Our staff will always remember him and his dedication to visit the graves of his wives daily. For this reason, the grave markers for O.C., Lillian, and Beth are some of my favorite markers in the cemetery.





Fred Billups
G.A.R. Cemetery Manager



How did we get to where the final ride to the cemetery came by hearse? The funeral hearse was originally a wooden or metal framework, which stood over the coffin and supported a cloth covering, called a pall, and metal spikes for placing candles. Later the word was used for any receptacle that carried a coffin. So, from about 1650 until now anything used to transport to the cemetery, either human or animal powered, was called a hearse. In 1900's the first self-powered hearse was electric, but it was replaced by internal combustion in 1907. Automobile funeral coaches really didn't catch on till the 1920's. In America the hearse is traditionally a Cadillac or Lincoln, as you need to start with a big car to make a hearse, but many manufactures have been made into funeral coaches. Owning such a costly vehicle that sits in the garage 80% of its life didn't make a lot of sense, so until the 1970's, especially in rural areas, they were also used as an ambulance. I'm sure more than one ambulance ride had the passenger making sure to remind the driver to go to the hospital and not the other place.

Ever wonder what the "S" shaped trim piece on the side of the couch is called? It is a landau bar. It is to resemble the hinges used on cloth tops of a horse drawn landau coach, also in the past used as hearses. Since the 1940's they have been on funeral coaches. The rare variant is the all glass sided coach that is made to look like its old horse drawn counterpart. But the hearse being custom built comes in many variations. In India they are converted vans, Europe the fanciest is a Rolls Royce hearse, Japan has gold replicas of fancy temples, and back to America the Harley Davidson has many variations of motorcycle funeral coaches. The future of funeral coaches will probably be built on the SUV or truck chassis. I'm willing to bet that they will also include nods to the past as they do now. So, as we never look forward to our final ride at least it will be a fancy one.

A Day at G.A.R.



Nancy Bro
G.A.R. Cemetery
Office Manager

Frequently Asked Questions

G.A.R. Cemetery personnel are often asked questions concerning our everyday procedures, rules and regulations.

Here are a few of the most frequently asked questions.

Q. *My husband and I have just purchased a marker, how long will it take for delivery and when will the marker be installed?*

A. Each monument company has their own manufacturing timelines and may take several weeks for your marker to be delivered. Installation continues all year, weather permitting. Once G.A.R. receives your marker, our staff strives to have your marker set as quickly as possible.

Q. *Our family would like the same style marker as the one that was purchased several years ago by our family. Is this possible?*

A. G.A.R. Cemetery do not sell markers, However, we can provide you with a list of monument companies that service our area that you can contact, and they will be able to answer your questions concerning the style of marker you want to obtain.

Q. *Why can't I set my loved one's marker myself?*

A. Setting a marker must be handled by the G.A.R. Cemetery staff. This is to ensure that the marker is placed in the correct location so that it does not impede upon another grave space and is to the G.A.R. Cemetery rules and regulations concerning marker placements.

**Do you have
a question
that you
would like
answered?**

**Submit your
question to
Nancy Bro at**

nbro@miamiokla.net

or Fred

Billups at

fbillups@miamiokla.net

**and you may
see it in our
next issue of
the G.A.R.
Cemetery
Newsletter!**

Ottawa County War Heroes

WORLD WAR I

Charles E. Arthur
Alexander Baker
Lemuel L. Berry
Charles L. Brady
Roy Brown
Benjamin F. Butler
Champion Carson
Clarence A. Clark
Raymon Currier
William H. Baines
Elmer Gates
William H. Glass
Harry J. Griffin
Lee F. Grigsby
Alert B. Hackney
John S. Hopkins
Bertram C. Horner
Thomas A. Jackson
Grant A. Jarman
Elmer Jones
Ernest L. Jones
Ira N. Kesler
Carl H. Key
Roy R. King
Joseph R. Macomber
Robert L. McClain
Fred D. McHaffie
Ernest Mercer
Homer Moore
Floyd L. Perry
Earnest E. Renfro
William C. Smith
Ralph Storey
William E. Vickers
Frank E. Wadkins
James Wallen
Albert Young
Caroline Walsh
(Red Cross nurse)

WORLD WAR II

Jay V. Alcorn
Robert F. Alcott
Edwin B. Allgood
John O. Angle
Howard Armstrong
Albert J. Ash
Cleo W. Baker
Wayne F. Benson
Tillman H. Black
Joel O. Blevins
Charles E. Bluejacket
Dennis Bluejacket
Earl A. Bradbury
Robert L. Brewster
James L. Broderick
Lawrence Brown
Virgil E. Brown
Alfred L. Browning
Cecil Brumback
John H. Brumfield
Paul R. Buffalo
Raymond Canada
Bert L. Chazell
Woodrow W. Coffman
Jack B. Collins
Robert W. Coln
Elmer B. Cook
Claude D. Cooper
Fred J. Cooper
Morell L. Cowan
James P. Cowherd
Robert A. Croninger
Charles M. Culter
Clyde F. Davis
Homer L. Davis
Walter F. Davis
Rex L. Doty
William G. Doty
Joe E. Douthitt
John D. Dozier
Milo C. Dry
Wayne Dyer
James M. Everly
Paul E. Fields
Edmond M. Fitzharrell
Robert E. Fromm
Thomas F. Gamble
Norman Gatewood
Ralph R. Gibbs
L. Gilbert
Warren C. Gonce
John F. Grigsby
Pate L. Grist
Virgil Groves
Oroville E. Hamon
Walter E. Hance
James R. Hanna, Jr.
Jay Hansford
Denton C. Hargrove
Roscoe J. Harmon
Ira J. Hawthorne
Floyd O. Hedges
Henry C. Hendrickson
Fredrick N. Herd
Melvin J. Hicks
Henry Higgins
Floyd W. Hires
Virgil L. Hoffman
George D. Holmes
Junior D. Honer
John D. Howard
Jack Hunter, Jr.
Willard M. Jennings
Eugene M. Johnson
Robert M. Johnson
William A. Johnston
Russell L. Jones
Robert L. Kelly
James W. Kelton
Joseph J. King
Duke Kingfisher
Robert R. Kyser
Gerald Lee
Archie J. Lehr
John W. Lewis
Johnny Lollar
Troy R. Longan
Herbert Lucy
Raymond C. Marlow
James Martin
Leroy Martin
Samuel C. McDrummon
Waldo E. McIntosh, Jr.
John A. Messer, Jr.
Lester E. Miner
Harvey Mitchelson
Dempsey Pitts
James L. Poe
Wilburn M. Prater
Donald J. Prewitt
Snow Proctor
James P. Provine

Herbert W. Quandt
William P. Randolph
James. T. Ranstead, Jr.
Charles W. Richardson
William L. Richardson
Ora Roberts
Harold E. Rogers
Ira F. Rotter
John L. Rutherford, Jr.
Charles W. Sappington
Francis Schulte
Richard J. Scott
Arnold W. Shamblin
Henson T. Shouse
David R. Shuck
John A. Sidle
Everett C. Slaight
Franklin D. Smith
Jesse E. Smith
Richard E. Smith
John S. Sparks
Jewell D. Spriggs
J.C. Starr
Robert Stoddard
Fred E. Stoner
James E. Stoner
Joe Q. Stotts
James E. Stover
Lyman F. Tannehill
John Tarpley
James M. Taylor
Arthur L. Thompson
Thomas D. Thornhill
Albert W. Thurman
Harley H. Turner
Bruce W. Vaughan
William U. Venis
Carl E. Webb
Franklin L. Weeks
Richard G. Weeks
Gene Wheelles
Lewis A. White
Billy W. Wilkins
Glen H. Willard
Logan E. Woods
Doyle Woolard
Floyd C. Wright
Herbert E. Wynn
O.L. Young

KOREAN WAR

Robert Creech
Eldon W. Ervin
William Johnson
Everett M. Jones
Harold E. Kirk
John E. Powers
Brummitt Sinor
W.D. Turner
David L. Wolfe

VIETNAM WAR

Larry K. Bryant
Dwight S. Campbell
Lonnie E. Dumas
Leonard E. Eulitt
Roy E. Fergerson
Teddy E. Hawkins
Alvie J. Ledford
Gary B. Midkiff
Fred M. Owens
Donald L. Rankins
James T. Ranstead, III
Thomas D. Robinson
Ronald L. Sanders
Drew D. Shipley
Charles (Sonny) Sillaway
James M. Standeford
Jerry L. Williams

EX-POWS

James Allen	Gobel D. James
C.E. Brooks	Carman Q. Kelley
Joe L. Burkeybile	William McClendon
H.J. Bussey	Elvis McCoy
Charles Captain	Kenneth McElhane
Clifford J. Chriswell	Loyd Mitchell
Lawrence A. Cockrum	Charles E. Munson
Leonard Cruzan	Robert Nunn
George A. Cunningham	Walter C. O'Brien
James R. Cuningham	Lloyd Offut
John Dyre	William F. Oldaker
Albert Echols	Ernie Pelham
Rex Gary	Raymond F. Pulley
Floyd Hayes	Henry H. Rhategean
Alfred L. Hill	Marvin Rhategean
Clovis Hines	Ed Seabourne
Norman Ingram	Leonard Tunnell
	Earl J. Weir

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Jason L. Norton

On the Web

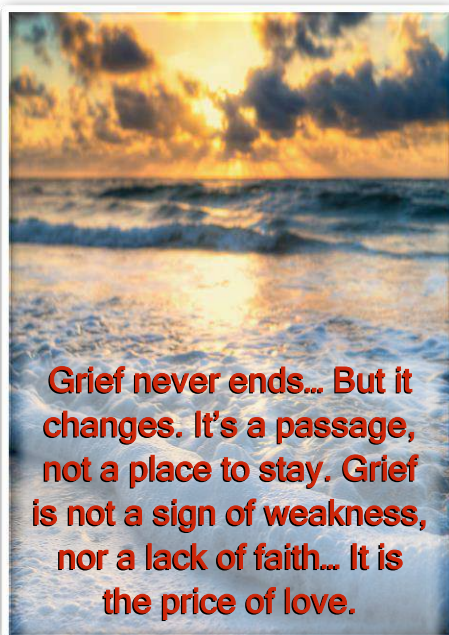
[Arlington Cemetery: A year in pictures](#)



[Picnicking in the Cemetery](#)



[In Search of Cemeteries Alive with Beauty, Art, and History](#)



Genealogy
Miami Public Library
 200 N Main * Miami, OK
Barbara Becker
geniedept@miamilib.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

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	02/04/2019
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 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.

If you want to help a person in grief, accept that you can't just remove their heartache. By even trying to erase someone's pain, you are telling them you believe it to be fixable.

Loss is never fixable. Grief is never erasable. So simply walk with them as their hearts begin to heal, and show them patience, kindness and loving acceptance.

Zoe Clark-Coates
Sayinggoodbye.org



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