

G.A.R. Cemetery

*Family * Heritage * Legacy*

**Remember My
Journey**

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Remember My Journey

G.A.R. Cemetery's "Remember My Journey" memorial page located on the online burial records is available for all to utilize.

In this program, you will be able to create a complete timeline of your loved one. From the very beginning, all the way through their journey of life. You will be able to up-load photographs, important documents, share their Military information, reflect on memories you have of them, incorporate your family genealogy, important milestones, and so much more.

If you have information or pictures of family or friends interred at G.A.R. Cemetery we encourage you to kindly share and create a timeless memorial of your loved one's Remember My Journey memorial page.

For an excellent example of this feature you may click the link below or call Nancy Bro at (918) 541-2288 for more information.

[Remember My Journey](#)

We strive to keep the legacies of every person here at G.A.R. Cemetery alive for our future generations.

G.A.R. Cemetery Launches New Website



G.A.R. Cemetery is proud to announce the launching of their new website www.garcemeterymiamiok.com. Please take a moment and browse the many pages of information and historical material that the cemetery staff has accumulated over the years.

The history of the Miami community has in many ways buried the past at G.A.R. Cemetery. We not only have the new 'Remember My Journey' memorial pages, but we also have a new website in place to go to when you have questions that need answered and our staff are not available. With 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQ's), to 'Rules and Regulations', it's all there.

If you have a question about what services we offer, or maybe you need to know pricing and property availability, that's there too. We have taken great measures to ensure that our site is easy to navigate by including a search engine that can easily help you find the answer you are looking for.

Our 'Visitor's Info' and 'News and Events' tabs are an easy way to find out about upcoming events, the Decoration Removal Schedule, how to Adopt-A-Flag, a beautiful Gallery of photographs taken by Gary Crow and other talented photographers in our area. You will also be able to access all our quarterly newsletters in one place, videos and links to [G.A.R. Cemetery's YouTube Channel](http://www.garcemeterymiamiok.com), as well as our new Facebook page at [@GARCemeteryMiamiOk](https://www.facebook.com/GARCemeteryMiamiOk).

And, what about G.A.R. Cemetery's rich history? We have tried to cover it all. Including an excerpt from Velma Neiberding's book, *The History of Ottawa County, Ok*, Titled: *Notes on the G.A.R. Cemetery*. Where Velma has researched and documented some fascinating details about our beautiful cemetery. And of course, we can't leave out The British Flyers Training School No. 3, their cadets and the amazing history that they have with our community.

Our 'Find A Tour' link has a mapped out historical tour that you can enjoy while on the grounds or, sitting in the luxury of your own home. We even have landmarks and our water hydrant locations mapped out for your convenience when you need water availability for the flowers you have placed on your loved one's graves. There are more tours in the making, so come back often to look for new tours that will be available soon!

We Welcome You to Visit Our New Website Today! www.garcemeterymiamiok.com

For more information, contact any of our cemetery staff at (918) 541-2288

One thing we know for certain; we can always count on Roger Meyer to be here with bugle in hand to perform for us during our annual British Flyers Remembrance Ceremony. For this we are very grateful for his continued support to G.A.R. Cemetery. Thank You Roger!

Roger is a member of Bugles Across America. Bugles Across America now has over 4000 bugler volunteers located in all 50 states and growing number overseas. Since the Department of Veterans Affairs is expecting more than 1/2 million veterans to pass every year for the next 7 years, Bugles Across America is ALWAYS recruiting new volunteers.



Roger Meyer

Bugles Across America

<https://www.buglesacrossamerica.org/>

Bugles Across America.org (BAA), a non-for-profit organization was founded in 2000 as a result of P.L. 106-65 that states that every qualified veteran has a right to Military Funeral Honors. As a minimum, this calls for two people to fold and present the flag and to provide a sounding of Taps. A shortage of available military buglers was then addressed by allowing this sounding of Taps to be done by way of a recording. With this in mind, Bugles Across America was formed to provide live buglers to fill this need.

Bugles Across America does not charge members to join nor does it collect dues. Our membership consists of men and women of all ages, races, and creeds. They are active military, veterans and civilians alike. Many are professional musicians, while others are capable but purely amateur. Regardless of background or previous experience, we require all volunteers to audition by sounding Taps for a Director before being placed on the active bugler list to assure that every veteran's family will receive a dignified sounding of Taps.

[Request a Bugler](#)





Left: Eldon Johnston, American Legion Post 147; Right: Neva Essex



L to R: Nancy Bro, G.A.R. Cemetery Office Mgr; Eldon Johnston, American Legion; Nancy Goforth; Neva Essex



The new Ladies Auxiliary Flag placed on Tulah Horner's grave.

MIAMI — Receiving one of just two remaining flags that are available, a special American Legion flag was presented to the family of the late Tulah Horner. Daughter, Neva Essex and granddaughter, Nancy Goforth received the flag during a ceremony on Tuesday, May 19 at G.A.R. Cemetery.

The flag replaces one that has been placed at Horner's grave every year since her death in 1962 by Essex.

A Gold Star Mother, her son, Junior Dallas Horner, a Purple Heart recipient, was killed in action in World War II. She received the flag as a member of the Legion Ladies Auxiliary.

"I'm just proud," said granddaughter, Nancy Goforth. "There were only two of the flags left available since they had been discontinued, so I'm just thrilled we can replace it with one of them."

Eldon Johnston, commander of Floyd L. Perry American Legion Post 147, was able to track down the flag. He reached out to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, which sent a catalogue. Johnston found a flag, but it wasn't the same dimensions as the original, so he kept looking. "They said that wasn't what they wanted, so we got in touch with the people (who sold the flags)," Johnston said.

"My goal was to get it for Memorial Day (2019), but it was shortly after then that we got it," G.A.R. Cemetery office manager, Nancy Bro said. "We have been trying to get the scheduling right so we could present her this special flag. Things finally came together."

--
Jim Ellis | Sports editor
Miami News-Record



Fred Billups
G.A.R. Cemetery Manager

Have You Ever Seen A Ghost?

A lot of times when I meet people for the first time, and they find out that I work at a cemetery the same question comes up. "Have you ever seen a Ghost?" I figure that is a question that has been asked of the cemetery caretaker thru history. Death is a strange thing and it is something that will come to all of us.

People have all kinds of superstitions surrounding death and cemeteries. Have you ever gotten a shiver, and someone will tell you that, "someone walked on your grave?" I fully know this one is not true. I have my grave plot and I have watched many people walk on it, and not a shiver yet. How about, "never point at the funeral procession, it will bring bad luck?"

In the Victorian days there were many more. Curtains would be drawn, and clocks would be stopped at the time of death. Mirrors were covered with crape or veiling to prevent the deceased's spirit from getting trapped in the looking glass. A wreath of laurel, yew or boxwood tied with crape or black ribbons was hung on the front door to alert passersby that a death had occurred.

Below are a few more examples of Victorian superstitions:

- Family photographs were also sometimes turned face-down to prevent any of the close relatives and friends of the deceased from being possessed by the spirit of the dead.
- If several deaths occur in the same family, tie a black ribbon to everything left alive that enters the house, even dogs and chickens. This will protect against deaths spreading further.
- You should always cover your mouth while yawning so your spirit does not leave you and the devil never enters your body.
- It is bad luck to meet a funeral procession head on. If you see one approaching, turn around. If this is unavoidable, hold on to a button until the funeral cortege passes.
- If you hear 3 knocks and no one is there, it usually means someone close to you has died. The superstitious call this the 3 knocks of death.
- If you see an owl in the daytime, there will be a death.
- If a sparrow lands on a piano, someone in the home will die.
- A dog howling at night when someone in the house is sick is a bad omen. It can be reversed by reaching under the bed and turning over a shoe.

Back to the question have you ever seen a ghost or a supernatural thing? Well no. I figured that the clairvoyance gene missed me. I have never seen the spook light ether. Only strange thing I've seen was a big fluffy dog came into the cemetery in the middle of a storm and just sit and stared at a headstone. It was raining hard and lots of thunder, he never flinched, just stared. When the storm ended, I went over and pet him and when I walked back to call animal control, he walked west out the cemetery. We've never seen him again. Was it something supernatural? I really do not know. The truth is I guess I need to come up with a better story (tall tale) when I'm asked, "Have you ever see a ghost?"

Source: <https://friendsofoakgrovecemetery.org/victorian-funeral-customs-fears-and-superstitions/>

A Day At G.A.R.



Nancy Bro
G.A.R. Cemetery Office Manager

Over the years that I've been here at G.A.R. Cemetery, I have had the privilege of speaking with people from all over the world. The most common location from where I get calls from is the United Kingdom.

Once, I heard from a man in Norway. He was looking for his long-lost great uncle that had stowed away on a ship to come to America. And somehow, he ended up here in Miami, Oklahoma where he had died while working in the mines. He is laid to rest here in G.A.R. Cemetery, unfortunately; in one of our many unmarked graves.

I have had several calls from sons and a daughter of former British Cadets that trained here at the British Flyers Training School #3 during WWII. Some, their fathers have since passed on, but others are still living. Like our infamous Col. Gail Halvorsen, aka: The Berlin Candy Bomber. (Which is now 99 years old and I hear is still doing well!)

And of course, you probably know of John Raisbeck, the son of [Kenneth Raisbeck](#), one of the cadets that is interred here at G.A.R. Cemetery. But, the latest contacts that I have had are from the sons of Cadet [Harry Holdcroft](#), who has passed, and the still living, [Vincent Tennant](#). Of whom I had the honor to speak to for quite a long time on the phone. Both of these amazing gentlemen have a wonderful biography uploaded to our new website at www.garcemeterymiamiok.com as well as other cadets.

We encourage you to look at the historical information that has been compiled over the years, that we have made available for your viewing.

Genealogy

Miami Public Library

200 N Main * Miami, OK

Barbara Becker

geniedept@miamiokla.net

918-541-2324

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

2020 EVENT SCHEDULE

British Flyers

Remembrance Ceremony

Saturday, October 17th, 2020 @
10:30 am

Angel of Hope

Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony

Sunday, December 6th, 2020 @ 7:00 p.m.



6 June 1944- British and
American troops storm the
beaches of Normandy,
marking the beginning of
the liberation of Europe.



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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	02/01/2020
Second Monday Following Easter	04/20/2020
First Monday Following Memorial Day	06/01/2020
First Monday in October	10/05/2020

- 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.

On The Cover



*This Angel is one of many notable memorial
markers at G.A.R. Cemetery.*