

G.A.R. Cemetery

*Family * Heritage * Legacy*



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THE AMERICAN LEGION

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veteran's organization. Focusing on service to veterans, servicemembers and communities, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential nonprofit groups in the United States. Membership swiftly grew to over 1 million, and local posts sprang up across the country. Today, membership stands at nearly 2 million in more than 13,000 posts worldwide. The posts are organized into 55 departments: one each for the 50 states, along with the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines.

Our local American Legion, Post 147 are committed to our community and its citizens. Their unwavering dedication to the G.A.R. Cemetery interments of Veterans and events demonstrates their true patriotism.

Just a few of the many community services they partake in are: Performing Military Rights for Veteran Funerals, The American Legion Flag Program, G.A.R. Cemetery Annual Memorial Day and British Flyers Remembrance Ceremonies. They also have a Military Museum.

On Memorial Day Weekend 2015, Post 147 opened its museum to the public. "We hope to make the younger generations fully aware of what has taken place in the past. We do not want valuable parts of our history forgotten about. Where we come from is important to where we are going." *Anonymous American Legion Veteran*

The museum collection includes artifacts from the Civil War through current conflicts, including guns, uniforms, ammunition, propaganda, and even a chunk of a Scud Missile from Desert Storm.

Located at 2129 Denver Harner Dr, Miami, Oklahoma, just three miles off Historic Route 66, Post 147 built the museum to serve the community educationally and to create a tourist attraction for the community.

OPEN
Sunday and Thursday
1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
(918) 542-3255



THE MEANING BEHIND THE 13 FOLDS OF THE UNITED STATES FLAG

1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
2. The second fold signifies our belief in eternal life.
3. The third fold is made in honor and tribute of the veteran departing our ranks, and who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain peace.
4. The fourth fold exemplifies our weaker nature as citizens trusting in God; it is to Him we turn for His divine guidance.
5. The fifth fold is an acknowledgement to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, "Our country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong."
6. The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed forces, for it is through the armed forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies.
8. The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother's Day.
9. The ninth fold is an honor to womanhood, for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of men and women who have made this country great have been molded.
10. The 10th fold is a tribute to father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first-born.
11. The 11th fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
12. The 12th fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.
13. The last fold, when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."





Kim Horn

HR/ G.A.R. Cemetery Director



Remembering Friends of G.A.R.

Bob Cline

Mr. Bob Cline passed away in January. He was a real friend to G.A.R. and we would like to remember him and his contributions. Mr. Cline served on the American Legion Funeral Detail and one of his friends that served with him told me they estimated he had participated in the detail at over 1,000 funerals. Many of those at G.A.R. He was a U.S. Navy Veteran and raised (4) children in Miami, retiring from B.F. Goodrich.

He loved to hunt and fish. He had a special interest in pecan trees and bees. He was a Salvation Army volunteer, First United Methodist Church Volunteer, and proud blood donor. Mr. Cline also served as part of the American Legion Flag Detail. He was usually the person you saw riding on the trailer as they put out and picked up American Flags throughout Miami on (10) designated holidays.

Here at G.A.R. he often attended our Memorial Day Ceremony with the American Legion and our annual British Flyers Remembrance Ceremony in October. He participated in our G.A.R. History Tour, proudly bringing the picture of Floyd Leslie Perry who the local American Legion Post is named after to tell his story. Mr. Perry is interred at G.A.R.

The G.A.R. Staff wishes to express our heartfelt sympathies to the Cline Family. Mr. Cline was one of a kind and at G.A.R. he will be greatly missed.





JC Kennedy, Jr.

Our coworker and friend JC Kennedy passed away in September at the age of 35. JC worked at the City of Miami as a Solid Waste Driver Collector III since January of 2008. JC is interred at G.A.R. in the Garden of Hope section close to our "Wind Chime Tree".

We will remember JC for his calm demeanor, caring for the citizens of Miami, and his love of all things involving cars and racing. JC is survived by his fiancé Celeste Myers and (6) sons: Albert, Alex, Zander, Aiden, Andrew, and Zaiden.

JC was the kind of co-worker who was always pitching in to lend a hand when needed. JC is greatly missed at the Solid Waste Department and the City of Miami.

In December, the lane leading to the Solid Waste Department was named after JC Kennedy. Thank you to the Miami City Council for approving this honor for JC and his family.

Our staff wishes to offer our sincere condolences to the Kennedy family including JC's mother Emma, father James Kennedy, Sr., and sisters Emmalie, Jamie, and Tresha.



Do you need help with submitting Remember My Journey information and photographs to somebody's timeline legacy page?

Help Is Here!

Call or email me today and make an appointment to come to the office and I will personally help walk you through the process. I will share tips and tricks to make their Remember My Journey Legacy page stand out and be the best it can be. So, gather up those photographs and documents and even jot down some memories. Because help is here!

(918) 541-2288

nbro@miamiokla.net

Remember My Journey is a unique program designed for family members and friends of those interred at G.A.R. Cemetery. Every burial record in the cemetery has its own memorial page with the ability to upload unlimited photos, videos, documents, and memories to enable you to create a lasting memorial for your loved one's life story.

The shared memories build a timeline of their life that will be archived for future generations to learn more about how they enriched the lives of their family and friends. All memories submitted on Remember My Journey will be viewable by the public and are reviewed by a staff member of G.A.R. Cemetery for approval before they are posted. We reserve the right to deny or remove any posts.

Click below to search for your loved one and begin building their lasting legacy today.

<https://garcemeterymiamiok.com/burial-search/>

My Loss...



Fred Billups
G.A.R. Cemetery Manager

Cambridge Dictionary defines loss as a disadvantage caused by someone leaving or by something being taken away. They also define loss as death, but I feel the other definition fits better when talking about death. We all have spent time after the loss of a loved one figuring out how we will get by and it feels like something was taken away. As the days pass you find your way of bearing the burden of absences. Slowly we find our ways to cope and to heal. It always helps to look back on the good times.

My loss that still hurts in many ways to this day was my Grandfather. He passed in 2000, all these years later I still think about him. Any time I have a tough decision, or I am figuring the right course of action, he is on my mind. He used to tell me stories while we worked his garden. If I am driving and I smell a garden his stories flood into my mind. If you are around me too long you will probably hear some of them. He helped me become the person I am today.

While I have not experienced same loss that others have, I do empathize with them. I have watched the stages of grief play out over months and years while getting to know some of the people that visit regularly.

*When someone you love becomes a memory,
the memory becomes a treasure.*

A Day At G.A.R.



Nancy Bro
G.A.R. Cemetery Office Manager

“Sincere Sympathy”

... Or is it Empathy that you feel?

We have all said it... “With Sincere Sympathy” But, what are we truly feeling? Let us look at the definitions and see the difference between these similar, but different words.

Sympathy: sym·pa·thy; /'simpəTHē/

noun: Feelings of pity and sorrow for someone else's misfortune.

Empathy: em·pa·thy; /'empəTHē/

noun: The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.

What is an empathic person?

The term empath comes from **empathy**, which is the ability to understand the experiences and feelings of others outside of your own perspective. You actually sense and feel emotions as if they're part of your own experience. In other words, **someone** else's pain and happiness become your pain and happiness.

Empathy is important because it helps us understand how others are feeling so we can respond appropriately to the situation. On the other hand, people who are good at reading others' emotions, such as manipulators, fortune-tellers or psychics, might also use their excellent empathetic skills for their own benefit by deceiving others.

The 3 Types of Empathy

Empathy is an enormous concept. Renowned psychologists Daniel Goleman and Paul Ekman have identified three components of empathy: Cognitive, Emotional and Compassionate. We will briefly discuss them below. By learning how to empathize with your friends, coworkers, and those around you, using these three types of empathy, you build stronger relationships and trust.

Cognitive: “Simply knowing how the other person feels and what they might be thinking. Sometimes called perspective-taking.”

If you imagine yourself in your friend’s shoes, you know she is likely to be feeling sad, as well as anxious because she relies on that income to pay her student loans. However, having only cognitive empathy keeps you at a distance from your friend. To truly connect with your friend, you need to share their feelings. This is where emotional empathy comes in.

Emotional: “When you feel physically along with the other person, as though their emotions were contagious.”

This type of empathy can also extend to physical sensations, which is why we cringe when someone else stubs their toe. In this case, you would look inwards to identify a situation where you were similarly anxious about the future. The situation itself need not be identical, as everyone is different. What is important is that the emotions resulting from the situation are the same.

So, you have successfully understood what your friend is feeling, and put yourself in a similar emotional space. Now what? Well, you can use the insights gleaned from Cognitive and Emotional empathy to have Compassionate Empathy.

Compassionate: “With this kind of empathy we not only understand a person’s predicament and feel with them, but are spontaneously moved to help, if needed.”

It is the balance between Cognitive and Emotional Empathy that enables us to act without being overcome with feeling or jumping straight into a problem-solving process.

Putting it all together

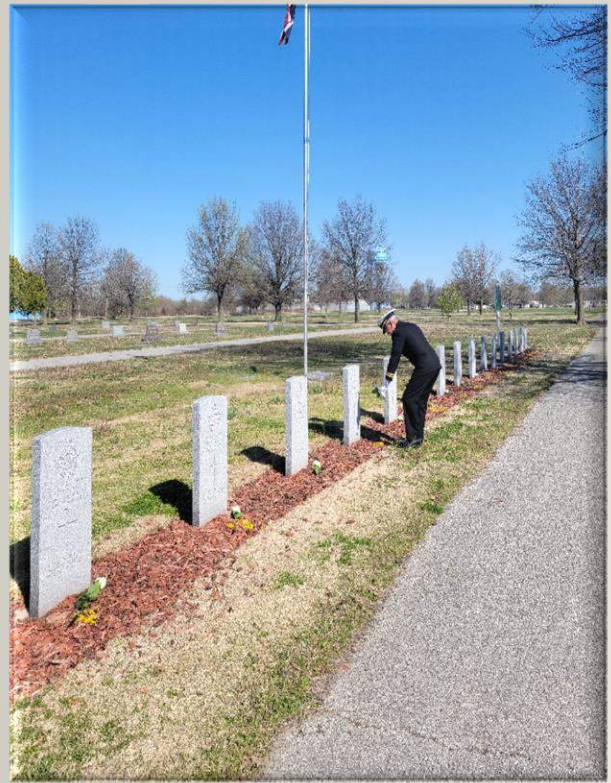
Empathy does not just happen naturally for a lot of people. Our fast-paced society does not often encourage us to take a moment to connect with others. It is therefore a conscious choice we must make, but the more we practice empathy, the more intuitive it becomes. The benefits cannot be overstated, especially in professions such as healthcare and teaching, where you are responsible for the wellbeing of many individuals, both young and old.

This information is an excerpt of an article written by: Becca Borody. Read it in its entirety at:

<https://takecasper.com/2020/06/empathy-1/>

Lt. Ian Thompson, US Navy, Ret. Made a surprise visit to Miami on Thursday, April 1, 2020, the 103rd Birthday of the Royal Airforce. The Royal Air Force (RAF) is the United Kingdom's aerial warfare force. It was formed towards the end of the First World War on 1 April 1918, becoming the first independent air force in the world, by regrouping the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). Following the Allied victory over the Central Powers in 1918, the RAF emerged as the largest air force in the world at the time. Since its formation, the RAF has taken a significant role in British military history. It played a large part in the Second World War where it established British Flying Training Schools in the US. One of them being here in Miami, OK.

Lt. Thompson laid a single white rose at the base of each of the British Cadet's grave markers as well as one for Mrs. Hill who cared for the graves for over 40 years. Lt. Thompson stated that we were only one stop on his trip today. He was also going to Tulsa, Memorial Park to honor our 16th Cadet, Ronald Dennis Harrison and then on to Ponca City where they have seven British Cadets laid to rest in their I.O.O.F. Cemetery.



Lt. Ian Thompson, US Navy, Ret.

2020 Tribute

January

Barbara Alice Vanpool
Ruth Jeanette Bond
Veda Velera Holt
Junior B. Wallace
Anna Marie Potter
Rose M. Pierce
Jack E. Renegar
Erma Lee Olivetti
Billie Lou Ginn Benjamin Kyser
Thelma Louise Anderson
Shirley Culver
Gary Eugene Clark
Beverly Robinson
Freda Alleen Darnell
Carol Ann Eddings

February

Sylvia Ann Hampton-Moore
Harvey William Scott
Betty Carole Scott
Jerry Dewayne Lawhead-Jay
Francisco Lorenzo Gonzalez
Cynthia Kay Sample
Dollie Clark
Andreas Luevano
Betty Ray
John Austin Lish, Jr.
Rev. Carol Dean Holden

March

Gregory Joe Swartz
Diana Lou Wilkinson
Ada Rosalie Haynes
Rev. James 'Cliff' Clifford Smith
Jack Leroy Surridge
Susan Lee Guilford
Leonard Clyde Watts
Edith Marie (Wallace)

April

William Todhunter
Janice (Feen) McGaw
Doloris Margaret Jirele
Vicki Botts
Jason Levi Sharbutt
Ida Suzanne Teehee

May

Danny Dean Dieter
Agrevene M. Gray
Dr. Leonard Ken Thomas
Tamara Dawn Marshall
Bettye Clairbourne Barbour
Gale Ivy Epps
Charles Lafayette Patterson

June

Timothy 'Tim' Don Durburow
Phyllis Colleen Campbell
Anita Marie Becker
Randy W. Walker
LaRita Maxine Gilbert
Rosalie H. Munoz
Cheryl Ann Ross
Richard 'Rick' Ogden
Darlene Ann (Hurt) Ogden

July

Todd S. Graves
Sandra Sue Graves
Benjamin 'Ben' William Hunt
Jack Lee Fletcher
Frances LaVoy Marquez
Reta Marie Scales
Patsy Jane Countryman
Corinne (Russell) Smith
Claude E. Donica, Jr.

August

Patricia Jewell Rutherford
Alta Shamblin
Marcy Ako
Edward James Persons
JoAnn Merit
Mildred I. Huxall
Thomas C. 'T.C.' Bear
Sydney Howard, Jr.

September

William Glenn Davis
Dennis Spohn
Karen Spohn
Betty Lou Walker
Delbert Eugene Hopper
Marcella Selle
Adrienne Nicole Wayman
Leroy 'Steve' Roberts
John B. Dillons...

September Cont....

JoAnn VanSandt
Jack Glasman
Jane Glasman
Karen Sue Shae
'JC' James Coy Kennedy
Chase Freeheart
Elfreda M. Burgess

October

Thomas Wesley Allen
Sherry Lynn Crittenden
Virginia Lee Underhill
Julius Gerald Kline
Anna Mae Jones
Charles 'Chuck' Mouthuy
Clark Leroy 'Mike' 'Pole Cat' Shuck
Thomas Perry Knight
Robert 'Bob' Dean Pittman
Edna Cook
Mary Ann Yankowski
Norma J. Pathkiller
Nadine Curlee

November

Shirley Barnes
Carol Sue Townsend
Kenneth 'Joe' Simpson
Neva Jean Horner
Jerry Malden Blevins
Nancy JoAnn Armstrong
Phillip E. Feken
Claranne Hayes
Pat L. Harryman
Lois Jean Harryman
Kay Frances Henry

December

Norma Ruth Center
Herbert 'Larry' Linn
Dustin Shawn Jay
Cherie Lynn Coale
Gary Michael Spriggs
Delbert Eugene Jones
Delores Diane Harrison
Leah Jean Stewart
Vernon Lee Boswell
Deloris Lou Boswell Anna Lucille
Graham
Barbara L. Crow
Frank Wilson

Miami Public Library

Genealogy Department

200 N Main

Miami, OK 74354

Contact Name: Barbara Becker

918-541-2324

geniedept@miamiokla.net

Library patrons may use the genealogy department during regular library hours; however, individuals needing help with research will need to come during the times the department is staffed, which are the following hours:

Mon., Wed., Thu.,

10:00 a.m.-noon, 1:00-5:00 p.m.,

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

EVENTS



Memorial Day Ceremony

Monday, May 31st @ 9:30 a.m.



British Flyers

Remembrance Ceremony

Saturday, October 23rd @ 10:30 a.m.



Angel of Hope Candlelight

Remembrance Ceremony

Monday, December 6th @ 7:00 p.m.



Find us on:
facebook®

Contact Us



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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**

DECORATION REMOVAL

DATE

First Monday in February

02/01/2021

Second Monday Following Easter

04/12/2021

First Monday Following Memorial Day

06/07/2021

First Monday in October

10/04/2021

- 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.