



Cornerstones

A Newsletter From Oak Grove Cemetery

Summer ♦ 2004 ♦ Vol. 2 ♦ No. 2



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Message from Val *Executive Director*

Val Reinke

It seems we hear a lot about heroes these days. World events have brought the concept of sacrificing one's self for the sake of others back into focus. Not surprisingly, there is camaraderie among heroes; they are drawn to each other during life - and death. Nearly 500 individuals are buried near one another in the veteran's area at Oak Grove. There are an additional 2,000 veterans buried at Oak Grove in other locations.

Over the years we have received many requests from families asking us to consider a special place for veterans who choose to be buried above ground or cremated. Some people have also expressed a desire to be interred with their spouse and family alongside other veterans.

To respond to these requests, and to honor the sacrifices that veterans have made to our country, Oak Grove has introduced the Wall of Honor. This unique area in our garden mausoleum is a wonderful option for veterans who want an alternative to in-ground burial and want to be interred near their families.

We'll be dedicating the Wall of Honor on November 11, which, of course, is Veteran's Day.

Val Reinke
Executive Director

Oak Grove introduces the Wall of Honor

There are close to 10,000 veterans in La Crosse.

Now there is a special section in Oak Grove Cemetery for these heroes and their families. It's called the Wall of Honor, a final resting place that honors the contribution that veterans have made to our country. The Wall of Honor includes niches, for people choosing cremation, and crypts for people who prefer a full body, above ground burial.

For more information, or to schedule a personal appointment to discuss the Wall of Honor, please contact Oak Grove Cemetery



at (608) 782-6956, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Wall of Honor Availability

Side-by-side companion niches:
16 pair available

Single Niches: 16 available

Companion Crypts (head-to-toe)
56 available

Single Crypts (may be purchased as side-by-side): 21 available

Contact Oak Grove Cemetery for prices. The price includes crypt or niche, lettering, death date(s), one bronze military branch emblem and placement, government-issued plaque placement on feature wall and maintenance.

Non-veteran family members may be interred close to you in crypts and niches located near by.

Support the Wall of Honor

You can support the Wall of Honor with your financial contribution. Contributions can be general or specific to the following items:

\$620 each for the following bronze military branch emblems:

- ★ Army ★ Marines ★ Navy
- ★ Air Force ★ Coast Guard

\$1,512 for a bronze plaque reading “Duty, Honor, Country”

Donations designated for general use will be allocated to pay for the lighting of the wall and flag.

Contributions of \$500 or more will be recognized by donor plaques located on the Wall of Honor.

A very special thank you to a local individual who generously sponsored the American flag display by supporting the purchase of a flagpole, which will stand at 30 feet in front of the Wall of Honor.



Do you know how to fold the American Flag?



1. Bring the striped half up over the blue field.
2. Then fold it in half again.
3. Bring the lower striped corner to the upper edge forming a triangle.
4. Then fold the upper point in to form another triangle. Continue until the entire length of the flag is folded.
5. When you get near the end - nothing but the blue field showing - tuck the last bit into the other folds to secure it.

Meaning of the 12 Folds in the American Flag

1st - is a symbol of life.

2nd - is a symbol of our belief in the eternal life.

3rd - is made in honor and remembrance of the veteran departing our ranks and who gave a portion of life for the defense of our country to attain peace throughout the world.

4th - represents our weaker nature; for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in times of war for His divine guidance.

5th - is a tribute 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.”

6th - 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.

7th - 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, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of our republic.

8th - 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 Mothers Day.

9th - is a tribute to womanhood, for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great have been molded.

10th - 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.

11th - 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.

12th - 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.



Information from the National Flag Day Foundation

Meet Your Local Funeral Director

Editor's note: Oak Grove Cemetery works closely with area funeral directors to assist families in making final plans. We thought it would be helpful to introduce our readers to some of our colleagues, and will feature area funeral directors in the next several issues of this newsletter.

This issue features Michael A. Schneider of Blaschke Funeral Home, 401 West Ave. South and Blaschke Funeral Home - Nelson Chapel, 1007 Caledonia Street, both in La Crosse.

How long have you been a funeral director?

I have been a licensed funeral director since 1994. I started my apprenticeship in 1989, and worked for the John J. Walloch Funeral Home while attending college in Milwaukee. While in college, I was awarded the Model Funeral Director Award and the Edward Heidenrich Restorative Art Award. I have been employed at Blaschke Funeral Homes since 1995, and became a business partner in 1997.

What are some of the biggest changes you have seen in the field since you started?

I believe the funeral service industry has experienced an evolution of corporate entities from a "global economy" absorbing locally-owned and operated funeral homes and cemeteries.

Also, population trends have shifted from the rural areas to the more urban areas.

The funeral service industry has been influenced by the use of the Internet and DSL, and by economic trends, fads, and local customs for both traditional and non-traditional burials. Changes from attrition in families, neighbors, relatives, values, or church vs. non-church customs have certainly affected the burial rite.

One of the biggest changes in the last ten years is the difference in choices consumers have regarding



***Michael A. Schneider,
Blaschke Funeral Home***

pre-arrangement funding. The Wisconsin Funeral Directors Association has created "MasterTrust." Also, local bank trusts and use of insurance policies to pre-fund final expenses have increased greatly. These options have given the consumer more choices in how and where to best secure funds for their funeral arrangements.

What's your "philosophy" about how to help families get through the death of a loved one?

My philosophy is quite simple: We are given a gift — the gift of a grieving family's mother, father, grandmother, grandfather, son or daughter, neighbor or friend. We are given the highest compliment one human being can receive from another — the care of their loved one at a most sensitive time, from the time of death until the time of burial. What I do is treat the deceased and the entire grieving family as though they were my own family members. I use the values my faith has taught me to use — life is a gift, and we should treat it that way, especially at the time of death.

Do many people plan ahead, that is, work with you to set up their arrangements before they need your service?

Yes, many people plan for their funeral, just as we plan for a wedding, vacation, trip, college education, or any other important rite of passage. Our society is good at planning, and at the funeral home we do this on a daily basis. We assist families in preparing newspaper notices, documents of permanent record and all phases of planning for their own burial rites.

What's one thing you wish everyone would know about planning a funeral?

Planning a funeral following a death can be a highly complicated and difficult transition for families that do not have prior knowledge of the wishes of the deceased. Family dynamics, attitudes, values, and religious affiliations influence decisions. Should the choice be a complete church service or a funeral home chapel service; ground burial or cremation; cremation before or after the service; or a service at all?

With so many choices to make, planning ahead can be comforting and bring a sense of peace to spouses and other family members.

Too often choices are made by the grieving family that typically would not have been made by a person planning his or her own funeral. Pre-arrangement appointments offer the opportunity to discuss all considerations openly and freely, and document them for easy retrieval at the time of death. Today, people are living longer; population shifts mean that the kids are not in the hometown as often, and more people are outliving their resources. Proper pre-funding, with planning ahead, assures a family that monies will be used to carry out their wishes. These funds remain in an irrevocable account, exempt from seizure by any government agency or other entity, and are used strictly for final funeral expenses.

Oak Grove Cemetery

Annual lot owners meeting recap

Oak Grove Cemetery hosted its annual lot owner meeting on April 28. Executive Director Valerie Reinke presented information about the cemetery's finances. She also discussed Oak Grove's mission to provide a beautiful and serene final resting place and comprehensive services for clients in an environment of trust, compassion and respect. Another aspect of the mission is that the cemetery recognizes its importance as a historical resource, and is committed to enhancing public knowledge of that history. Looking to the future, Val discussed Oak Grove's transition to a Service Cemetery, that is, an organization that is involved in client, family and community outreach.

Both Louis Robinson and Salem Markos were reelected to the board. Read more about them below. The staff and board of trustees for Oak Grove sincerely thank the lot owners for their interest and support.

Board profiles:

Louis F. Robinson

Elected to Oak Grove Board of Trustees in April 1976

Education:

- ♦ B.B.A. in accounting from UW-Madison
- ♦ J.D. from UW-Madison in 1949

Professional Experience:

- ♦ Holley & Company Purchased in 1958. Owned and operated for 32 years

Community Service:

- ♦ Lutheran Hospital Board - Past President
- ♦ Bethany Homes Board - Past President
- ♦ Independent Insurance Agent of Wisconsin - Past President

Of Special Interest:

- ♦ Robinson's father served on the Oak Grove board
- ♦ He served in the 14th Armored Division - Battery B of the 501st Artillery in WWII

Salem Markos

Elected to Oak Grove Board of Trustees in July 1992

Education:

- ♦ B.B.A. from UW-Madison in 1965
- ♦ M.S. from UW-Madison in 1971

Professional Experience:

- ♦ Salem Markos and Sons (founded in 1901) - wearing apparel - Partner
- ♦ MSM Property, Inc. - President
- ♦ SAM Properties, Inc. - President
- ♦ Vapine Ltd. - Managing Partner

Community Service:

- ♦ Redevelopment Authority for the City of La Crosse - Member
- ♦ Chamber of Commerce, Government Action Committee - Member
- ♦ Christ Episcopal Church - Member



This youngster lounged comfortably on the grass at Oak Grove for several hours in early June.

2004 Memorial Day Events



Oak Grove is always very busy over Memorial Day. The traditional parade ends at the cemetery and we see many visitors throughout the weekend.

Meet the Staff

Oak Grove's new accounting clerk



John Stuber

Oak Grove is pleased to announce the addition of John Stuber as accounting clerk. John has an extensive background in accounting. In his most recent role, John worked as an accountant for McGladrey Contract Business Services, providing accounting services to retail businesses.

He previously worked in various areas at Heileman/Stroh Brewery Company for 27 years.

In his new position, John will be responsible for general ledger maintenance at Oak Grove Cemetery. He will also process the cemetery's payroll, account receivables and account payables as well as maintain mailing lists, inventory and supplies.

John is a lifelong resident of La Crosse and a UW-La Crosse graduate. He enjoys fishing and golfing. He and his wife, Sarah, have one daughter, Rachel.

In the last issue of Cornerstones, we gave you a quiz — on Goosetown Trivia. Here are the answers:

1. It's most likely that the name "Goosetown" comes from:

- a. Many people in the neighborhood raised domestic geese
- b. The number of geese in the nearby La Crosse River marsh
- c. The area was first settled by Jacob "Goose" Henry.

Correct answer: **a**

2. Most of the people who settled in Goosetown in the early 1900s were of ____ origin:

- a. Greek
- b. German
- b. French
- d. Italian

Correct answer: **b**



3. Some of the Goosetown residents were slaves who escaped the South via the Underground Railroad:

- a. True
- b. False

Correct answer: **a**

4. Many of the residences in Goosetown have been replaced, due to building projects and expansion of:

- a. UW-La Crosse
- b. WWTC
- c. City of La Crosse Housing Authority
- d. All of the above

Correct answer: **d**

Thanks to all of you who sent in your answers. From the people who answered all of the questions correctly, we drew a name for a prize. Congratulations to Curtis Thienes of La Crosse, who won a \$10 Downtown Mainstreet gift certificate.

Please Send Me:

- General information about Oak Grove Cemetery
- A 2004 price list for Oak Grove Cemetery
- Oak Grove Planning Guide
- Wall of Honor Information
- Rules & Regulations

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

e-mail: _____

- Please have someone at Oak Grove Cemetery call me regarding pre-arrangement counseling or other questions related to the cemetery.

Telephone number: _____

Send to: Oak Grove Cemetery, 1407 La Crosse Street, La Crosse, Wisconsin 54601



Trust ♦ Compassion ♦ Respect



Oak Grove Cemetery

Mark Your Calendar — Upcoming Events

Jazz on the Green June 27

Oak Grove Cemetery is a major sponsor of Jazz on the Green, Sunday, June 27 starting at noon at the North Presbyterian Church lawn, 1327 N. Salem Road, La Crosse. The rain location is the Northside Festgrounds in Copeland Park. This is a fundraiser for Causeway, an organization of interfaith volunteer caregivers.

Enjoy Great Music from Dick Chaffee's Stardust Big Band, Gate City Jazz Band, and Al Townsend's Jazz Band. The concert green fee is \$5, children under 12 are free. An old fashioned picnic lunch is available for \$5 from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. Raffle tickets are also available. For more information, call Causeway at (608) 784-4517.

Silent City Tour Saturday, September 18

Mark your calendars — the La Crosse County Historical Society (LCHS) will host their annual Silent City Tour at Oak Grove Cemetery on Saturday, September 18. This is a fun event where actors portray famous



people buried in the cemetery. It's your chance to learn more about La Crosse history. The LCHS is looking for people to be actors for this year's tour. If you're interested in acting the part of an early La Crosse citizen, call LCHS at (608) 782-1980.

La Crosse area students will be participating in the tour on Thursday, September 16.

Summer Library Program's Cemetery Tour July 23

The Summer Library Program is hosting a cemetery tour at Oak Grove on Friday, July 23 at 1:30 p.m. Call the La Crosse Public Library (608) 789-7100 or check out the Library's Teen Connection area, at <http://www.lacrosselibrary.org/teen/index.htm> for details.

Oak Grove Cemetery's Newsletter, CornerStones and other valuable information is available online at www.oakgrovecemetery.com



Our Mission:

Oak Grove Cemetery exists to provide a beautiful and serene final resting place. We will provide comprehensive services for clients in an environment of trust, compassion and respect. The cemetery recognizes its importance as a historical resource, and is committed to enhancing public knowledge of that history.

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