



# The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

## The Heritage Gazette Fall 2006

### SeaBees Install Water Line

#### East Side Phase I Complete

The Seabees from Construction Battalion Maintenance Unit 202, Detachment Washington, led by Lieutenant Junior Grade Greg Kirk, have been hard at work installing a new water line in the cemetery. Phase 1



has now been completed, and we have a new water line to the east side of the cemetery, with nine new spigots.

The Seabees will work through the end of this year to complete Phase 2, bringing a water line to the cemetery's west side. Navy Seabees deploy around the world to provide construction support for U.S. forces as well as humanitarian assistance.

HCC thanks the Seabees, as well  
*Continued on Page 5.*

### Louisburg Wildcats March to Sousa

One hundred fourteen marching band members from Louisburg High School, Louisburg, Kansas, braved a summer thunderstorm to make a July 5<sup>th</sup> trip to Congressional Cemetery and played "Military Medley," which includes service tunes for different branches of the service, "Taps," and "High School Cadets," a march by Sousa. *Continued on Page 6.*

play at the grave of John Philip Sousa. Marching to the graveside accompanied by the Marine Corps Color Guard, the band



### PLANET Returns to HCC

#### Annual Renewal & Remembrance

On July 24, Professional Land-care Network (PLANET) donated a day of professional services to HCC for the sixth straight year. This year, as in previous years, they put weed control on all 30+ acres, trimmed and pruned trees, and last year provided lightning protection for the large swamp oak just inside the entrance. Their volunteer donation adds up to over \$10,000 in services and time. Each year, PLANET members assemble on Capitol Hill each year to work cooperatively on  
*Continued on Page 2.*

### Stewardship Program

#### Borden to Develop Program

The Association has hired scholar Rebecca Borden to develop an interpretive stewardship program for the cemetery. The Steward Program will be a comprehensive volunteer training program designed to provide capable and knowledgeable "stewards" who can advance and enact the overall mission of Historic Congressional Cemetery.

Depending on the volunteers' interest and experiences, stewards will serve many capacities  
*Continued on Page 5.*

## A Week At Congressional

At first blush it may look like a place of eternal rest, but life is not dull at Congressional Cemetery. In fact, "rest" is not in our vocabulary.

While Sandy was deep within the Library of Congress researching obituaries for our fantastic web site, Linda was off in London on "vacation" talking up Congressional to potential donors. Dudley was preparing for a presentation on Congressional as the first National Cemetery and I was at Eastern Market going over the concept drawings for our new guide map. Scott was huddled over engineering proposals for our road and drainage problems and Rebecca was actually in the gatehouse developing the interpretive program. Laurie was at home research material for our bicentennial commemorative book while Collin and Lisa trimmed trees out in the yard. Meanwhile Catherine and Howard reconvened the Conservation Task Force to repair grave markers. Tom continued to field the day to day processing of membership applications, where's-my-folks inquiries, and making sure the bills get paid. Robert was developing a proprietor's data base (*my importante*) and John continued his inscription survey despite the heat. Margaret and Michele worked on a gardening stewards program, and Jill struggled with our data base system upgrades.

These are the week by week chores that go on behind the scenes, undertaken by some very dedicated people. Not only do they keep the place functioning but these folks are building a fantastic organization. I have to say I am very proud to be part of this group.

So while the Navy Yard SeaBees working on the new water line may be the only visible sign of activity, "rest" assured, we are hard at work.

~ Patrick Crowley

## Donations for Chapel Urgent Renovations Needed

Historic Congressional Cemetery's Redemption Chapel was built in 1903, replacing a large water fountain that stood on the same site. For over 100 years, the Chapel has hosted funerals, weddings, historic meetings and events, and of course the annual HCC Hallowe'en Organ Recital and the HCC Association Annual Meeting.

Over the years, the Chapel has fallen into a terrible state of disrepair. Currently, it has no electricity and a leaking roof, as well as possible structural damage, and we have had to close it for all events for the foreseeable future.

*Continued on Page 6.*

## PLANET Cares for Earth

*Continued from page 1.*

legislative issues. For six years now they have donated a day of their professional services to HCC.

PLANET is an international association serving the lawn care professionals, exterior maintenance contractors, installation/design/build professionals, and interiorscapers. PLANET provides its members with a good business foundation to help them evaluate, plan, and better manage their companies.

Member firms have direct access to marketing tools, industry specific business publications, updates on legislative issues, and networking opportunities that can assist them in becoming more profitable.

Herbicides used to kill off poison ivy on the fences and overgrowth on the walkways are considered non-toxic after they dry, which occurs within a few hours of application. Ω

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John Kreinheder, Inscription

## Cemetery Manager Tom Kelly

## Bicentennial Committee Patrick Crowley Lisa Hollingsworth

## Bicentennial Commemorative Book

Laurie Stahl  
Sandy Schmidt

## Contact

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*The Association for the Preservation  
of Historic Congressional Cemetery  
is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization.  
All donations are tax deductible.*

## A Personal Bequest Can Benefit HCC

### There are Several Options

There are several options available to anyone wanting to make a planned gift to benefit The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery (APHCC), with the most popular being a bequest through a will.

There is nothing new about making a gift to APHCC through a bequest, and we have received many over the years. The ease and simplicity with which a bequest can be completed is perhaps one of the reasons that the charitable bequest is the favorite way to make a philanthropic contribution after death. There are four easy steps to follow in making a bequest to APHCC:

1. Identify an area of interest. First, you select APHCC as the beneficiary. If the donor has a specific area of interest at the cemetery that he or she wants to benefit from the gift, this should be identified in the will/bequest. The interest might be: landscape amenities, building repairs, program enhancements, or the endowment fund.

2. Determine the bequest amount. Two options are available in choosing an amount, a predetermined amount designated in the

bequest or a percentage of the final estate. And advantage of designating a percentage may be that as an estate increases in value over time, the will or estate plan would not have to be updated to reflect the change in value.

3. Contact an attorney. A prospective donor should contact his or her legal advisor and request that APHCC be named as a beneficiary in his or her will. The attorney will need information regarding the amount or percentage of the bequest and the specific area, if any, to benefit.

4. Inform the APHCC of your decision. The APHCC maintains a conditional list of friends who have named the cemetery as a beneficiary in their estate plans. Following the completion of a bequest, the donor is requested to contact the Cemetery Office to inform the Association of the estate gift. You can reach the Cemetery Office at 202-543-0539 or via [staff@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:staff@congressionalcemetery.org).

Note: the information contained in this article is for educational purposes only. For specific details on how a planned gift would benefit you, contact an attorney, financial planner, or other advisor. Ω

### **HCC Website Expanding and Improving**

Photos of gravestones are being uploaded to the website! Three quarters of the cemetery's 15,000 stones have been added and we will keep adding them. You can download these photos. Currently labeled by range & site numbers, they will eventually be labeled by burial name. Also on the website is a detailed report on HCC's Tree Canopy Replenishment Program. To find it, click on Conservation/Landscaping from the home page. Sandy Schmidt, cemetery historian and our exceptional web diva, is also working on uploading transcriptions of all the cemetery's daily logs (running through 1925) as well as the obituaries she has transcribed through 1914. Thanks in large part to Sandy's efforts, the cemetery website serves as a rich genealogical and historical resource for people around the world. Ω

## *From the Manager's Desk ~* **My One Year Review**

In my second week of work, one year ago, Board Chair, Linda Harper and I had a chat on priorities. The need to keep looking for support was high on the list: promoting site sales and for ideas for foundation grants, etc. After Linda left to go home, I opened that day's mail, finding an envelope that held a really substantial check to the Association from the estate of Donald Mooers. I called Linda immediately. For all I knew this kind of thing happened all the time. Well, actually it doesn't. This was the first *tranche* of a bequest which has turned out to be the largest individual donation in the Cemetery's history.

Then there was the Wirt skull episode, which brought police detectives, forensic scientists, and other unusual visitors to the office and grounds. We've also had visits by the NY Times, National Geographic, and a number of independent filmmakers. The Cemetery appeared frequently in local media and we've even hosted weddings and birthday parties.

The biggest surprise has been the high level of activity I've found. This is an *alive* Cemetery! We've witnessed constant streams of community volunteers, spearheaded by the Navy Yard and Marine families and friends, donating hundreds of hours on permanent improvements to our grounds. The sheer volume of offers sometimes taxes our administrative structures, but somehow we've been able to handle these events and physical improvements continue to amaze visitors who "knew us when."

Having spent the better part of the 40 years working with non-profit organizations, APHCC and its supporters are perhaps the best example of the volunteer spirit I have experienced, and I personally want to thank you all for that spirit.

~ Tom Kelly

## Congressional Cemetery's American Heritage

### Oregon to Antarctica to Japan: Navy Purser William Speiden

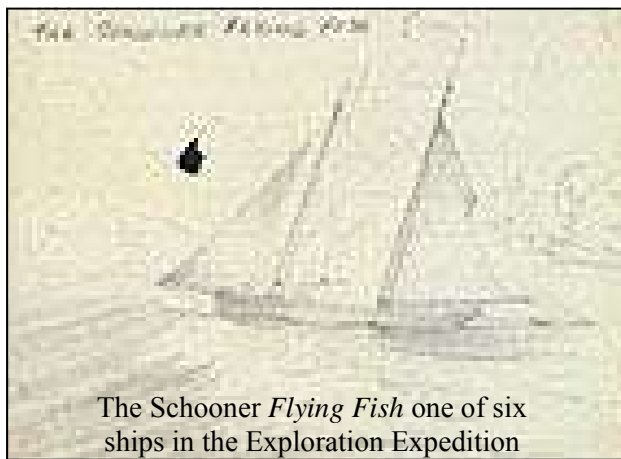
In 1828, William Speiden was a 21-year old Purser's Clerk at the Washington Navy Yard. A native of Washington, D.C., Speiden owed his position to Timothy Winn, a Navy Purser, who in 1815 offered a job to the then-18 year old boy. Winn had a strong influence on Speiden's career and was clearly grooming him for better things. In 1824, Winn wrote to Speiden from New York, advising him not to take a position as a purser's steward on the North Carolina as it would not serve to advance his career.

Speiden subsequently remained at the Navy Yard, ran Winn's small grocery store, and built a reputation for honesty and competence. The 1834 Washington city directory shows him serving as a Common Councilman of the Sixth Ward as well as serving with his father-in-law as a Trustee of the Public Schools. In 1828 he married Marian Coote, age 18. In 1829 their daughter Marian Eliza was born, then a son Clement in 1833 and William, Jr., in 1835.

Although Speiden's career was on the rise, he struggled to provide for not only his wife and three children but also as sole support of his widowed mother and two sisters. When his friend Winn died in 1836, Speiden looked desperately for the security of a Purser's position, which he won in August 1837.

He was then ordered to Norfolk to join a ship assigned to the U.S. Exploration Expedition, where he served as Purser. (Marian was pregnant when Speiden left, and a third son, Edgar, was born in

1838.) This government-sponsored scientific expedition made significant scientific achievements: they collected, geological, and zoological specimens, recorded various data on the Pacific Ocean, determined Antarctica was a continent, charted the Fiji Islands and mapped the Columbia River region of Oregon. The Expedition inspired other men and women to undertake scientific expeditions, and contributed greater discoveries



than its participants realized at the time.

The time of the expedition, from 1837 to 1842, spanned the presidential terms of Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison and John Tyler. Americans were involved in a Canadian insurrection, there was a dispute over the boundary of Maine, the first emigrant train reached California via the Oregon Trail, and a patent was issued to Charles F.B. Morse for the telegraph.

Marian wrote frequent letters to her absent husband, and in 1841 wrote this: "In my last I gave you a description of the inaugural of General William Henry Harrison, now I shall give you a description of his funeral procession. He was taken sick a few weeks after going

into office, and died exactly a month after he was inaugurated....On the 6th of April his remains were taken to the Congress burying ground and put in the public vault. His wife on account of recent illness did not come to Washington with him, nor was she here when he died. His funeral procession was the longest I have ever seen. He was not carried in a hearse as a general but carried on a car covered with black velvet. He

was placed in several coffins to preserve him...I believe they intend taking him to Ohio but they have not done so as yet." Harrison was not laid to rest in Ohio until July 7<sup>th</sup>, remaining in the Public Vault at Congressional Cemetery in the interim.

After the Wilkes Expedition, Speiden remained in the Navy, his duties keeping him in Washington for several years. He left again during the Mexican war and later in 1853 and 1854, Speiden was a purser's clerk aboard the Mississippi during Matthew Perry's expedition to open Japan, specifically Edo (Tokyo), to trade. Speiden then served as the Naval Storekeeper at the Hong Kong Depot beginning in 1856 to perhaps 1860 or 1861, marking another long absence from home. After falling ill he was sent home, where he died on December 18, 1861, at the age of 56.

In 2003, the Library of Congress restored William Speiden's journals, the two volumes of which contain many drawings and paintings.

~ contributed by Laurie Stahl



## Building & Grounds Sends Out RFP for Summer Conservation Work

Catherine Dewey, our professional conservator on the Building & Grounds Committee issued an RFP (request for proposals) in June seeking bids for the restoration of

five monuments at the cemetery.

The work will begin this fall on monuments belonging to James Greenleaf (left), William Prout, Catherine Sanford, Samuel Smallwood (right), and James Heiskall.

The selected firm will provide cleaning and conservation treatment to the monuments. All the monuments are in disrepair, exhibiting deteriorating masonry and mortar soiling. The Greenleaf memorial needs several small cracks cleaned and closed. The Smallwood memorial has severe delaminating and flaking; the team will attempt to preserve the remaining façade and possibly fill the surface voids. Similar treatment will be provided to the Prout box tomb. The Sanford box tomb lid broke

and fell into the box this spring. For information on who these individuals were please visit our web site's obituary pages. Ω



## SeaBees Complete Phase I of Water Line Installation Naval Support Activity Command Adopts Congressional

*Continued from Page 1.*

as the Commanding Officer of Naval Support Activity Washington, Captain George Chamberlain who has been instrumental in organizing Navy volunteer efforts on Make a Difference Day as well as on our water line work.

"We at Naval Support Activity Washington have 'adopted' Congressional Cemetery," Captain Chamberlain explains, "so we have committed to community service projects apart from Make a Difference Day with the goal of making the most historic tract in the cemetery presentation-ready for the 2007 bicentennial celebration. Our projects are scheduled throughout 2006, with upcoming work in November, and we are planning

another for spring 2007."

Thanks to these enormous efforts, the cemetery will meet many of its landscape and preservation goals, making it a nicer place for the public to visit for the bicentennial and for many years to come.

The Make a Difference Day is a recurring community service pro-

ject that the local bases participate in by bringing volunteers to projects. A committee votes on projects to take on, and Congressional Cemetery was the benefactor in 2004 and 2005. This year, MADD will probably go to another project. However, we at Naval Support Activity Washington have "adopted" the Congressional Cemetery, so we have committed to community service projects, apart from MADD, with the goal of making the most historic tract in the cemetery presentation-ready for the 2007 bicentennial. Our projects are scheduled for Aug 19 and Nov 4, and we plan to do at least one more in the spring. Ω



## **Stewardship Program**

*Continued from Page 1.*

including general office support, historical archives, genealogical research, buildings and grounds maintenance, preservation of headstones, visitor tours, and special events. Members interested in becoming a volunteer HHC Steward should contact Rebecca directly at the Gatehouse.

One of the goals of the Steward Program is to build a community of caring citizens and life-long learners who reflect the leadership qualities of those who are buried

on the grounds. HCC is a significant site for many reasons and on multiple levels. An interpretive program will help HCC communicate historical significance, environmental significance, community significance, personal significance to all audiences.

Borden comes with a wealth of experience and knowledge about education and informal learning environments. She helped the American Architectural Foundation develop its national education initiatives and currently advises the National Building Museum on

their educational programming. A national expert on arts education and built environment education, Rebecca worked closely with many leading educational organizations across the country.

She moved to D.C. in 2003 from Charlottesville with her 12-year old chocolate lab Henley, but is originally from the Boston area. "Cemeteries have always played an important role in my life," she says, and she likes to visit Mount Auburn Cemetery when home as three of her grandparents are buried there. Ω

## **Wildcats March To Sousa**

*Continued from Page 1.*

Father Coughlin, Chaplain of U.S. Capitol, led a prayer and the U.S. Marine Corps Band Assistant Director Captain Fettig accepted a wreath from the band and spoke about Sousa's role in promoting music education, especially among high school students. "John Phillip Sousa would be proud of your playing here today," Captain Fettig said. "He was dedicated to educating students about music."

Sousa's grandson, John Phillip Sousa Pugh, traveled from the eastern shore to bring one of Sousa's batons for John Cisetti, the Louisburg band leader, to use. "The entire day was certainly one of the greatest thrills of my career," Cisetti said. "It was a memorable and educational event for all of us."

The band marched in the National Independence Day Parade as the representative of the State of Kansas, and performed at a wreath-laying ceremony at the Navy Memorial. They also performed the "Star-Spangled Banner" to open the Nationals vs. Florida Marlins baseball game on the evening of July 5<sup>th</sup>. The students also toured the White House, Capitol, Smithsonian Institution and Mount Vernon, as well as the fireworks on the mall.

John Philip Sousa's promotion of bands and band music helped in the establishment of band programs across America. "It is fair to say that there might be no Louisburg High School Band had it not been for John Philip Sousa," Cisetti said. "We are indebted to him." Ω



*Louisburg Wildcat Marching Band and Captain Fettig place a wreath with assistance of Sousa's grandson, John Pugh, and Wildcats Drum Majors Megan Smith, Kevin Manning, and Dean Symes. The honor detail also included past winners of the John Philip Sousa Band Award Dean Davidson, Anna Goens, Rusty Nay, and Cathy Cisetti.*

## **Chapel Repairs Needed**

*Continued from page 2.*

Estimates for the Chapel restoration are near \$100,000. The Chapel needs a new slate roof with all accompanying metalwork, electrical work, potential structural work and, ideally, installation of central air conditioning.

We are actively seeking donations to help us with

this effort, as the Chapel has become such an integral part of the cemetery's event planning, and is critical to a successful bicentennial celebration.

As it stands now, we will have to cancel our annual Hallowe'en concert because of the lack of electricity in the Chapel. Ω

## Congressional Quiz

*How well do you know  
Congressional Cemetery?*

*What do we call:*

*1) The tallest monument?*

*2) The first burial?*

*3) Memorial's to Congressmen?*

*4) The big stone bench?*

*5) The pair of angel statues?*

~~~~~

*a) The Cenotaphs*

*b) The Arsenal Monument*

*c) The Swinton Memorial*

*d) The Sousa Memorial*

*e) The Hall Memorial*

## Countdown to our 200th Anniversary

*I want to help preserve Historic Congressional Cemetery.*

☐ \$25   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$100   ☐ \$250   ☐ Other

*Donations of \$250 or more are deposited in our Third Century Endowment Fund which is matched by our Congressional Appropriation and managed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.*

☐ My check is enclosed (made payable to Congressional Cemetery).

☐ Please bill my credit card.      ☐ Visa      ☐ MasterCard

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Does your employer make matching contributions?

Would you like the matching gift form? ☐

*The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax deductible.*

## Around the Yard

### DC Cultural Tourism

HCC Hosts September 30 Tours

The popular city-wide "get off the Mall" tour program sponsored by DC Cultural Tourism will return to Congressional this fall on Sept. 30 at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM. The free tours are led by "Crypt Master" Patrick Crowley starting at the main gate at 18th & E Street, SE. For more information on other tours, visit [www.culturaltourismdc.org](http://www.culturaltourismdc.org). Ω

### "Shadow of Afghanistan"

Film Honors Fallen Journalists

A film honoring two fallen journalists who's memorial marker sits just outside the chapel doors at Congressional opened at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York this May. They were murdered while covering the wars in Afghanistan in 1987. Information about the film can be found at [www.shadowofafghanistan.com](http://www.shadowofafghanistan.com). Ω

### Mr. Graves is Back

Careful: Don't Get Bit !

To the delight of his many fans, our snapping turtle, "Mr. Graves," has returned from an extended absence down the Anacostia River. He can be found in the drain basin at 19th & H St. where he crawls through pipes to the woods beyond the fence. We hear he's partial to shrimp but will bite at anything ~ watch your fingers! Ω

### Annual Sousa Tribute Nov. 6

Marine Corps Band Honors Leader

The Marine Corps Band will return to Congressional cemetery on November 6th to honor its illustrious leader, John Philip Sousa. The concert will begin approximately 10:30 AM and is free and open to the public. Check our web site for details as the date draws near. Ω

### Conservation Task Force

Professionals Return to HCC

Undaunted at the task that lies before them, Congressional's Conservation Task Force team resumed their summer preservation work in June with the cleaning and repair of several markers east of the Gatehouse led by Howard Wellman and Catherine Dewey. Ω

### New Map in the Works

Local Artist Creates HCC Map

Local Eastern Market artist Mary Belcher is creating a new map for Congressional Cemetery in time for our Bicentennial in 2007. Her map-making skills are widely known and promises a much more entertaining guide to the grounds. Look for completion late this year. Ω

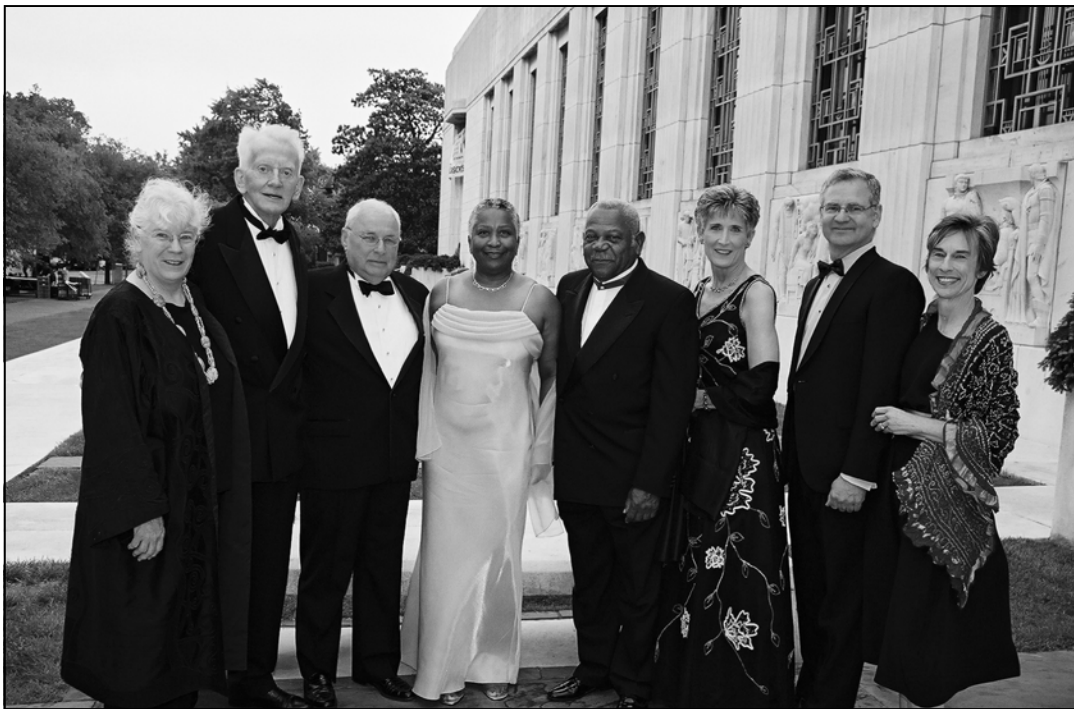
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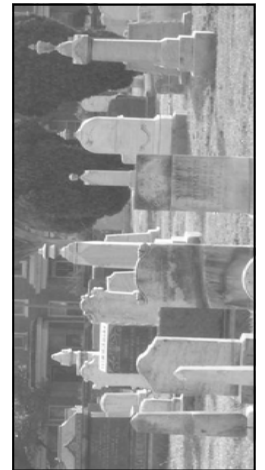


*Congressional Cemetery is listed on the  
National Register of Historic Places*

## The Heritage Gazette Fall 2006



*Capitol Hill Community Foundation Awards \$10,000 Keller Grant To APHCC to Prepare for Bi-centennial of Congressional Cemetery. The Annual Gala at Folger Library also honored Hugh Kelly (2nd from left), William Reed (3rd from left), and Harold & Janice Gordon (4th & 5th from left). APHCC Chair Linda Harper and Vice Chair Patrick Crowley (2nd & 3rd from right) accepted the award from Nicky Cymrot (far left) and Stephanie Deutsch (far right).*



**Reserve Your Place in History**

Interment Sites are available in  
Historic Congressional Cemetery  
Call for details—202-543-0539