



## HCC Ambassador Toolkit

Office Phone: 202-543-0539

E-mail: [staff@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:staff@congressionalcemetery.org)

Website: [congressionalcemetery.org](http://congressionalcemetery.org)



---

## Welcome!

Thank you for your interest in serving as an ambassador for the cemetery. This toolkit is adapted from a variety of materials created by HCC Staff Member A.J. Orlikoff that we use to train our docents, written and verbal input provided by K9 Corps Member Victor Romero, and other key components of our operations I have observed and wished to share with you. We hope this detailed guide will assist you as you interact with guests of all kinds on our grounds.

The purpose of this program is two-fold: providing a welcoming space and general assistance for visitors and offering guidance and information for K9 Corps Members and Day Pass Holders. The HCC Ambassador will act as a visitor services volunteer to help ensure visitors have a positive experience at the cemetery and rules are known, followed, and respected by all. Examples of the work done by an ambassador includes, but is not limited to:

- Reminding visitors and K9 members of the posted rules of the cemetery
- Helping visitors with wayfinding, including using printed cemetery maps and the 360-website tour
- Notifying visitors of ongoing work in the cemetery, safety protocols, and any impending closures
- Sharing knowledge of the history of and residents interred in the cemetery, including offering printed self-guided tour brochures or directing visitors to the downloadable options on the website
- Reporting rules infractions to cemetery staff when appropriate, including the presence of dogs who are not neutered or spayed, or the purposeful refusal to pick up and discard pet waste in the designated bins
- Alerting staff to any grounds needs, new safety hazards, or other maintenance requiring attention
- Soliciting and gathering feedback from visitors for office use to consider improvements
- Creating a pleasant experience for all who walk through our gates

We recognize this position is new and will need to evolve over time with your input. Please let us know if there is anything specific you would like us to provide in terms of training to make your experience more fulfilling.

If you are submitting hours for volunteer work to the office, you can do so by emailing [staff@congressionalcemetery.org](mailto:staff@congressionalcemetery.org) or by reporting online through this form: <https://congressionalcemetery.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/volunteer-credit-submission-form>

I am looking forward to working with you!



Yours in Service,

Jackie Spainhour  
President, HCC



---

## About the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Congressional Cemetery remained a prominent place in the Capital City, but, by the 1970s, the cemetery had fallen on hard times. Christ Church laid off the grounds crew and office staff, relying entirely on volunteers to conduct cemetery business and maintain the grounds. The grounds became overgrown to the extent that many gravestones were no longer visible. The area was described as a habitat for wild dogs and snakes.

In June 1976, a group of ambitious, civic-minded citizens formed the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery (APHCC), to rescue the once proud ground from further deterioration and possible abandonment. The Association is fully tax exempt 501(c)3 nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the District of Columbia.

The mission of the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is

***preserves, promotes, and protects our historic and active burial ground. We respectfully celebrate the legacy of those interred here through education, historic preservation, community engagement, and environmental stewardship.***

Shortly after APHCC was incorporated, the Vestry of Christ Church leased the cemetery to APHCC for 40 years. This was renewed July 31, 2019 for 20 years through 2039. Under the terms of the lease, APHCC has full responsibility for “operating, maintaining, preserving and enhancing the cemetery grounds.”



---

## Cemetery History and Other Facts

### SIZE:

Historic Congressional Cemetery occupies 35 acres of land owned by Christ Church, Washington Parish of the Episcopal Church, located on G Street, SE between 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Street.

HCC is the largest privately owned open space along the Anacostia River.

HCC contains 68,000 interments and continues to grow. There are approximately 60-70 interments each year.

Of the 68,000 interments, there are about 14,000 memorials, markers, and monuments in the cemetery.

### CEMETERY HISTORY:

In **1807**, the original cemetery consisted of the 4.5-acre square on which the gatehouse stands. The land was purchased with private funds by concerned citizens who felt that Capitol Hill needed a better cemetery than what had been set aside with L'Enfant's original plan for Washington, DC. The first burial, **William Swinton**, a master stone cutter from Scotland recruited to work on the US Capitol, took place in April 1807. Shortly thereafter, in July 1807, the first Congressman, **Uriah Tracy** of Connecticut, was interred.

In 1812, the cemetery was ceded, debt-free, to Christ Church. It bore the name **Washington Parish Burial Ground** until 1846 when the vestry changed the name to Washington Cemetery. A series of annexations beginning in 1849 continued until the present area of 35 acres was reached in 1875.

Periodic federal appropriations, beginning in 1823, were made to erect the wall, iron fence, the original gatekeeper's house, the public vault, landscaping, and other improvements. The name evolved when Congress added its own name to the appropriation legislation for "Congressional Cemetery." Almost from the beginning, Congressional Cemetery became the principal place for interments in the capital and kept this position for many years. By the mid-nineteenth century, it was described as "America's Westminster Abbey."

A military report of 1939 stated that "in reality, the Congressional Cemetery was the first national cemetery created by the government" although it was, and still is, privately owned.



---

#### HCC Ambassador Toolkit

Along with the more colorful figures buried in HCC, there are thousands of lesser-known visitors to and residents of the Capital city. Among the 68,000 graves are privates and generals of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and Mexican War, Union and Confederate soldiers, craftsmen, Architects of the Capitol, Native American chiefs, foreign diplomats, victims of mass tragedies, infants and the aged.

Throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Congressional Cemetery remained a prominent place in the Capital City. Through the efforts of friends and supporters of the cemetery, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on June 23, 1969. By the 1970s, however, it had fallen on hard times. On June 16, 1997, the National Trust for Historic Preservation named Congressional Cemetery as one of the eleven most endangered historical sites in America.



---

## HISTORICAL FACTS:

### ***Original Square & Expansion<sup>1</sup>***

Square 1115 was purchased in 1807 and comprises approximately 4.5 acres. The cemetery began expanding in 1849 and reached its present size of 35 acres in 1875, although more remote sections remained unoccupied until the early 1890s.

### ***Public Vault***

In 1832, Congress appropriated \$1,000 “for a construction, under the superintendence of the commissioner of public buildings, of a substantial brick or stone vault in the Washington Parish Burial Ground, for the temporary interment of members of Congress<sup>2</sup>,” which could be used by the public for a fee of \$5.00. An additional appropriation of \$1,600 was authorized in 1833 “for completing the public vault and railing thereon<sup>3</sup>.” The public vault was used until 1935 as a temporary “receiving” vault to hold the remains while a permanent place of burial was arranged or when adverse weather conditions prevented burials.

Over the years, over 6,000 remains were temporarily interred in the Public Vault, including three presidents: William Henry Harrison [1841], John Quincy Adams [1848] and Zachary Taylor [1850]; two first ladies: Dolley Madison [1849-1852] and Louisa Adams [1852].

It was repaired in 2005 at the cost of \$35,000.

### ***The Fountain***

Built in 1869 at the site of the present chapel, the fountain was removed and replaced by the chapel in 1903.

### ***Chapel***

Designed by Arthur M. Poynton, who had served as deputy building inspector for the District of Columbia, the chapel was built in 1903 at the cost of approximately \$4,500<sup>4</sup>. At the time it was considered one of the most modern mortuary chapels in the country. A description of the project

---

<sup>1</sup> Breitektutz, Cathleen. *Historic Congressional Cemetery Developmental History* (26 September 2003). [..\\Web Site\\Research\\History Cemetery\\HCC DevelopmentHistory.pdf](#)

<sup>2</sup> History of the Congressional Cemetery (1906), p. 14.

<sup>3</sup> Statute 2 March 1833 (4 Stat. L. 650) and statute 30 June 1834 (4 Stat. L. 722) cited in History of the Congressional Cemetery (1906), p. 14.

<sup>4</sup> Vestry meeting minutes (Book 1883-1911): 10 November 1902, p. 401; December [day not given], 1902, p. 403; and 9 March 1903, p. 406. See also obituary for Arthur M. Poynton, *The Star*, 7 April 1940.



appeared in *Architects and Builders Journal*:

*One of the most complete mortuary chapels in Washington has been completed in Congressional Cemetery. This chapel, which is furnished with crypts and modern appointments for disposing of the remains, was erected under the direction of the vestry of Christ's Church, G Street S.E., at a cost of \$5000. It stands in the central part of the cemetery in a circular plot of ground and is Gothic in style. The exterior is of pebble dash, a slate roof covers it, while the windows are of stained glass, surmounted by a gilt cross. A.M. Poynton, architect, drew the plans, and J.H. Gibbons, builder, had the contract.<sup>5</sup>*

It was restored in 1980.

### ***Gatehouse***

The first gatehouse was built in 1832 after Christ Church parish received an appropriation of \$1,500 from Congress to help pay for “keeper’s house, for planting trees, boundary stones, and otherwise improving the burial ground allotted for the interment of members of Congress and other officers of the General Government.”<sup>6</sup> The second gatehouse was built on the site of the original structure in 1923 for a cost of approximately \$11,000. It was designed by Howell V. O’Brien.<sup>7</sup>

### ***Latrobe Cenotaphs***

Made of the same Acquia Creek sandstone as the US Capitol, there are 165 “cenotaphs” at Congressional Cemetery modeled after a design by Benjamin Latrobe. The word cenotaph is of Greek origin and means “empty tomb.” In fact, **89 of the monuments** mark the final resting place of 19 Senators and 70 Representatives<sup>8</sup>. The remaining monuments were placed at the Cemetery to honor 60 other members of Congress who died in office. The practice of placing cenotaphs at the cemetery was discontinued in 1876 when Representative, later Senator, George Frisbie Hoar of Massachusetts argued in Congress that “it is certainly adding new terrors to death to propose that...his body should be under a structure...only excusable on the ground that nobody is buried under them.”<sup>9</sup> As one time they were whitewashed on a regular basis.

In 1978, an exact copy of the earlier cenotaphs was dedicated to **Representatives Hale Boggs, Sr.** (House Majority Leader) and **Nicholas Begich**. Both disappeared along with their plane while flying over Alaska in 1972. Speaker **Thomas O’Neil**, who presided at the ceremony, is himself memorialized by a stone (although of conventional design) placed a few yards away

---

<sup>5</sup> *Architects and Builders Journal*, September 1903, p. 14.

<sup>6</sup> Statute 31 May 1832 (4 Stat. L. 520), cited in *History of the Congressional Cemetery (1906)*, p. 13.

<sup>7</sup> Vestry meeting minutes (Book 1911-1926): 8 January 1924, p. 240.

<sup>8</sup> “The Congress of the United States and Congressional Cemetery” brochure, n.d.

<sup>9</sup> *History of the Congressional Cemetery (1906)*, p. 35.





***Family Vaults and Mausoleums***

There are 39 private family vaults remaining. They were built between 1828 and 1920, the majority being built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Fifteen have been restored since 2009 and two more will be restored in 2020. The others range in condition from good to very poor. The cost of restoring the vaults ranges from \$15,000 to \$50,000 depending on condition.

***Gravestones***

There are approximately 14,000 gravestones in the cemetery. About three-fourths need repair ranging from minor resetting to major restoration. Minor repairs and resetting are accomplished by the Cemetery Preservationist with the help of volunteers. Others require outside contractors. The cost of resetting or repairing a stone can range between \$1,500 and \$5,000.

**RESIDENTS:**

The spectrum of careers and professions represented by those buried in Congressional Cemetery include:

- \*Cabinet Officers                      \*Supreme Court Justices                      \*Military leaders
- \*Diplomats                                \*Journalists                                        \*Architects
- \*Librarians of Congress                \*State Governors                                \*Early leading feminists
- \*Veterans from every American war beginning with the Revolution and including the last survivor of the War with Mexico
- \*Practically every Native-American treaty negotiator who died in Washington during the 19th century.
- \*Second only to Arlington National Cemetery in the number of graves of former members of the House and Senate

***Founders***

Seven of the eight founders of the cemetery are interred in the cemetery. They were all members of Christ Church.

- o **George Blagden** [Blagden Vault, R50] supervisor of construction at the US Capitol, city Alderman and Director of the Bank of Washington
- o **Griffith Coombe** [Coombe Vault, R50] wealthy merchant of high social standing
- o **John T. Frost** [R48, S5] clerk in the US House of Representatives
- o **Henry Ingle** [R56, S2] cabinet maker, ironmonger, and owner of a prosperous lumber yard
- o **Dr. Frederick May** [R31, S9] prominent physician, contracted to oversee the health of the workers of the US Capitol construction site
- o **Samuel N. Smallwood** [R49, S26] supervisor at the US Capitol, wealthy lumber merchant and later Mayor of the city
- o **Commodore Thomas Tingey** [R53, S7] first commandant of the Navy Yard  
His wife, **Mrs. Tingey**, was the first woman buried at the cemetery, 18##



***Well-Known:***

- **Alexander Dallas Bache**, Superintendent of the U.S. Coastal Survey and First President of the National Academy of Sciences
- **Mathew Brady**, Civil War photographer
- **Henry Stephen Fox**, British Envoy
- **Elbridge Gerry**, Vice-President, and the only signer of the Declaration of Independence to be buried in Washington
- **General Archibald Henderson**, Commandant of the Marine Corps for thirty years
- **J. Edgar Hoover**, long-time Director of the F.B.I.
- **General James Jackson**, Revolutionary War leader and Governor of Georgia
- **Tobias Lear**, personal secretary to General and President Washington
- **Belva Lockwood**, first woman to practice before the Supreme Court, and Equal Rights Party candidate for President.
- **Joseph Nicollet**, explorer and mapper of the Minnesota Territory
- **Dr. Charles Henry Nichols**, first Superintendent of St. Elizabeth's Hospital
- **Samuel Otis**, Secretary of the Senate for thirty years
- **Push-ma-ta-ha**, Choctaw Indian Chief who served with Andrew Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans **John Philip Sousa**, conductor of the U.S. Marine Band and “March King”
- **Dr. William Thornton**, designer of the U.S. Capitol



---

## Timeline of Historic Congressional Cemetery<sup>10</sup>

- 11 April 1807** First burial made (stonecutter William Swinton) four days before the deed to the property was officially obtained
- 15 April 1807** Square 1115 purchased by Henry Ingle on behalf of a group of subscribers wishing to establish a burying ground. Post and railing fence probably erected that year around the northern 3/4 of the square, leaving the southern 1/4 for burial of the poor. Referred to in church records of 1807 as “Christ Church Burying Ground”
- 19 July 1807** First burial of a congressman – Senator Uriah Tracy of Connecticut. First congressional cenotaph, designed by Benjamin Henry Latrobe, likely erected that year or shortly thereafter
- 24 March 1812** The subscribers, having recouped their initial financial investment, transferred the property to the vestry of Christ Church, Washington Parish. Name established as “Washington Parish Burying Ground”
- 1816** Decision by vestry to reserve 100 sites for future congressional burials
- 1820** Right of interment in government lots extended to heads of government and Families
- 15 Dec. 1823** Additional 300 sites reserved for congressional & government use
- 4 May 1824** Congressional appropriation of \$4,000 made for new brick wall around burying ground (completed that year)
- 31 May 1832** Congressional appropriation of \$1,500 for keeper’s house & site improvements (completed that year)

---

<sup>10</sup> Breitkreutz, Cathleen. *Historic Congressional Cemetery Developmental History* (26 September 2003). [..\\Web Site\\Research\\History Cemetery\\HCC DevelopmentHistory.pdf](#), pp.63-67



- 14 July 1832** Congressional appropriation of \$1,000 for construction of public vault
- 2 March 1833** Congressional appropriation of additional \$1,600 for public vault
- 30 June 1834** Congressional appropriation of final \$193.89 for public vault, plus \$1,966 for repairing the burying ground's wall after heavy rains and building a culvert and drain
- 3 March 1835** Congressional appropriation of \$600 to finish wall repair and site work
- 10 August 1846** Congressional appropriation of \$500 for repairs to wall after more flooding rains
- 25 July 1848** Legislation passed to allow acquisition of a small part of reservation 13, to enclose the street between it and square 1115, and to enclose additional streets between square 1115 and adjacent blocks up to a maximum of 30 acres. (reservation 13 parcel not officially purchased until 1857)
- 1848** John P. Ingle authorized to begin purchasing nearby property for expansion of the cemetery
- 1849** Square 1116 laid out and enclosed. Name changed to “Washington Cemetery”
- 1854** Square 1104 laid out and enclosed. New numbering system for ranges and sites established. A portion of square 1104 set aside for future chapel
- 18 August 1856** Congressional appropriation of \$5,000 to purchase 500 burial lots for the government, the money to be used to erect an iron fence along the north cemetery boundary (completed 1858)
- 7 Nov. 1856** Congressional appropriation of \$2,200 for flagging walkway to public vault



- 
- 29 Dec. 1857** Deed of sale made for reservation 13 parcel
- 18 May 1858** Legislation passed to enclose 18th and 19th Streets, between the north side of G Street and the north side of Water Street, and also G and H Streets between 17<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Streets. Street rights-of-way to be reserved for government burials
- 1859** Square 1105 laid out and enclosed
- 1866** First burial in reservation 13 parcel – likely enclosed same year
- ca. 1869** Ornamental fountain installed at intersection of 18th and G Streets
- 3 March 1869** Congressional appropriation of \$3,000 for improvements at cemetery. Cemetery expansion at this time likely brought squares 1106, 1117 and 1123 all within the fence line (though there was possibly no fence along the southern boundary at river's edge)
- 1871** Section of square 1104 that was reserved for chapel to be sold instead for burials
- 18 May 1872** Congressional appropriation of \$3,000 to continue improvements
- 3 March 1873** Congressional appropriation of final \$2,000 for improvements, including grading and sodding
- 1874** Gate house renovated for \$1,650. Cemetery streets given new names
- 1876** The tradition of erecting cenotaphs for congressmen was discontinued
- 1891** Cemetery expanded to include squares 1130, 1148 and 1149 by running a single fence down the center of G Street (with permission from the District Commissioners). Cupola erected on gate house with bell



- 
- 1900** US Navy requested permission to relocate scattered sailor and marine graves at Congressional into new section at east end
- March 1902** Sewer easement granted to the District near H and 20<sup>th</sup> Streets
- 1906** Detailed history of the cemetery's relationship with Congress prepared by Senator Burkett of Nebraska to accompany HR 5972
- 1903** Chapel constructed at 18<sup>th</sup> and G Streets, in place of fountain
- 1904** Fence to be erected along southern boundary (exact location and extent unknown)
- 1906** Owner of land south of cemetery protested southern fence location. Cemetery and landowner negotiated new fence location at north edge of Water Street and down approximate center of H Street
- 1907** Vestry complied with DC Health Office requirement that all burial lots have range numbers marked
- 2 March 1907** Legislation passed granting the cemetery the use of the street rights-of-way that had been reserved for government burials
- 1908** Monument of Vice President George Clinton removed to New York
- 1911** Government agreed to lease square 1152 (east of cemetery at river's edge) to cemetery for its use
- 5 July 1912** Vestry agreed to sell east 1/4 of square 1149 to the government for \$5.00
- December 1913** Promotional booklet with brief history and photographs published by Washington Parish
- 1923** Old gate house demolished and new one constructed in its place



- 1932** All trees removed on both sides of Congress Avenue from front gate to chapel
- 1933** Lease of square 1152 discontinued
- 1936** New “tool house” constructed for \$1,670 (presumably at far east end of cemetery)
- May 1949** The “garage” at the cemetery destroyed by fire (presumably the structure built in 1936). Garage rebuilt within two months for \$2,100
- 1949-1951** Location of southern fence (which needed to be replaced) discussed at length with National Park Service. Vestry suggested new boundary line to make fence straighter. NPS could not be persuaded. Fence to remain in existing location
- 1953** Legislation passed to clarify exact number and location of government-owned lots. Public vault relinquished to the cemetery
- ca. 1953** Chain link fence replaced wood fence between east end of cemetery and Gallinger Hospital (current location of jail)
- ca. 1955** Chain link fence replaced wood fence along southern boundary
- 1969** Cemetery and church listed on National Register of Historic Places
- 1972** Proposed legislation to transfer cemetery ownership and maintenance to National Park Service
- 1975** Vestry released remaining paid staff at cemetery and volunteers agreed to care for the property instead



- 
- 1976** Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery founded and agreed to an initial 3-year lease from the vestry. Care of government-owned lots transferred to the Architect of the Capitol
- 1979** New 40-year lease signed between vestry and APHCC
- 1980** Chapel restoration begun
- 1982** \$300,000 appropriated via the AOC for cemetery repairs. Funds used for security plantings at perimeter, lighting and electricity in chapel, and replacing hydrants
- 1997** Cemetery administrator was dismissed for embezzling and mismanagement. Cemetery operations again taken up by volunteers. Cemetery listed on the Eleven Most Endangered Historic Places List of the National Trust
- 25 Sept. 1998** Congressional appropriation of \$1 million to be held by the National Trust as an endowment for long-term care of the cemetery; shepherded by Congressman Tom Walsh; requires 1-1 match
- 1999** The Cenotaphs of Congressional Cemetery, a 2-part study prepared for the Department of Veteran's Affairs by Wood, Swofford and Associates; Part 1 History, Part 2 Restoration Recommendations (notes – cost at \$1.3M for restoration of cenotaphs)
- 2000** New Strategic Plan developed to guide cemetery organization to 2007 anniversary
- 2001** Senator B. Dorgan initiates legislation for additional \$1 million toward Endowment plus \$250,000 planning grant directed by Architect of the Capitol to assess conditions and provide cost estimates
- 2001** Senator Dorgan awarded first annual John Philip Sousa Distinguished Service Award by cemetery association





- 
- 2001** HCC matches Save America's Treasures Grant of \$50,000 and repairs and restores approximately 100 stones and a brick vault
  
  - 2001** K9 members raise \$20,000 for the Endowment Fund and donations for yard sale fill chapel wall to raise \$3,000
  
  - 2002** Congressional appropriation of additional \$1 million for National Trust fund and \$250,000 for a professional report on the history, preservation, and maintenance needs of the site
  
  - 2002** Congressman Farr (CA) supports \$100,000 appropriation in DC bill for vault restoration and stabilization of public vault. Congressman Farr awarded the J.P Sousa Distinguished Service Award
  
  - 2002** Kiplinger Foundation awards grant of \$15,000 for 3 years for restoration
  
  - 2002** HCC awarded a "Save America's Treasures grant for stone restoration
  
  - 2002** HR & CL study establishes cost of repair and maintenance of cemetery buildings and grounds at \$30-40M
  
  - 2003** Congressman Frelinghuysen supports \$100,000 appropriation in DC bill for tree removal and new landscape plan
  
  - 2003** Restoration of five brick burial vaults
  
  - 2003** 9/11 Memorial Grove established
  
  - 2004** Sumner Museum exhibit on 23 individuals at HCC for whom DC public schools are named
  
  - 2004** 75 gravestones repaired



- 2005* Washington Conservation Guild ‘Angels Project’ stone restoration
- 2005* Joint Service Project begins annual ‘Make A Difference Day’ 170 military service volunteers
- 2005* NPS begins Historic American Landscapes study of Congressional Cemetery
- 2006* Car bomb exploded outside cemetery gates, destroying 16 gatehouse windows, all 30 were replaced
- 2006* Wirt Vault investigation with Smithsonian Natural History Museum
- 2006* Community and HS bands from across nation begin playing tribute to John Philip Sousa
- 2007* Bicentennial year celebrated with Spring Heritage Festival & Fall Remembrance Day
- 2007* Docent-led tour program inaugurated
- 2007* Conservators restore five complex marble monuments
- 2007* VA & NPS begin \$1.75 million Cenotaph restoration project
- 2007* Chapel roof \$35,000 repairs begin
- Summer 2008* Road repaving work begins
- Summer 2008* Push-ma-ta-ha grave marking installed
- 2008* \$80,000 grant received for restoration work



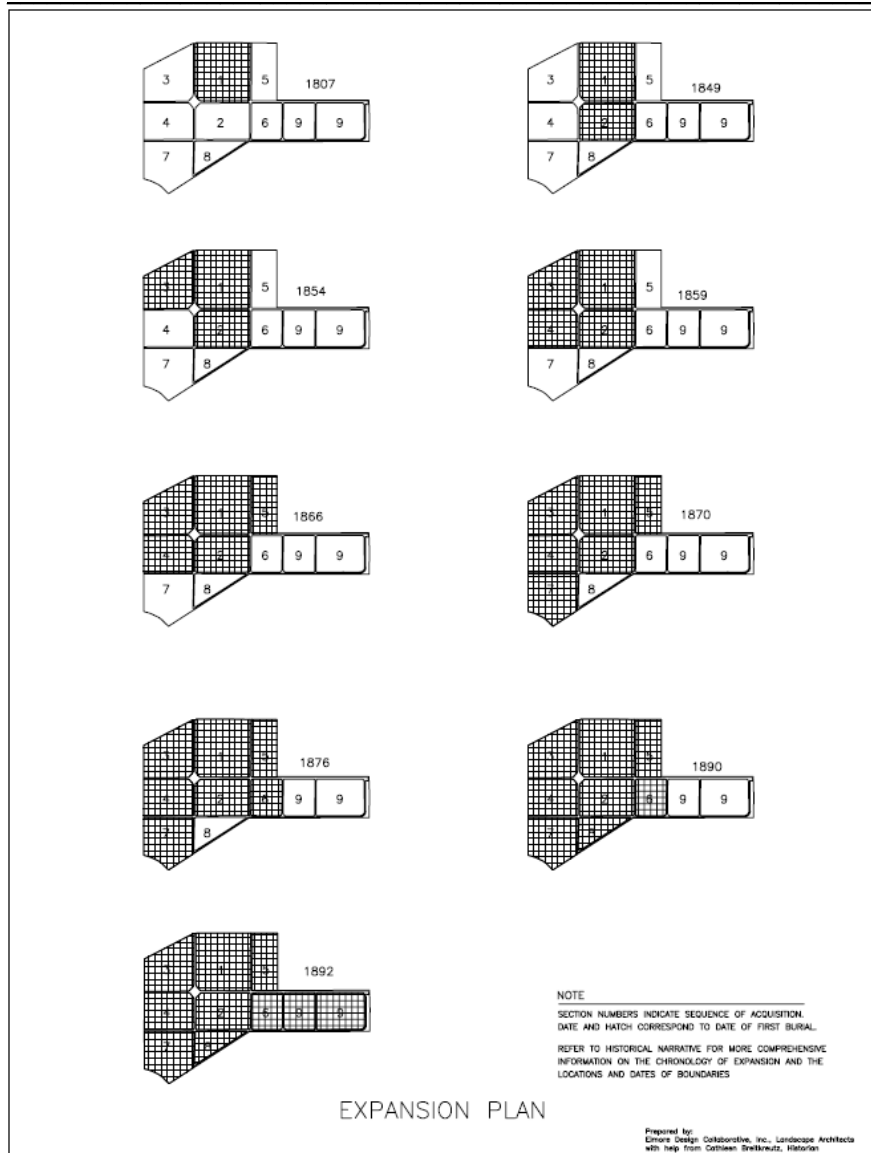
- 2008** Major General Macomb Monument restoration & re-interment ceremony
- 2009** Historic cobblestone storm drainage architecture discovered and preserved; Storm water drainage system installed for joint Cemetery & NPS flooding problems
- 2009** Association completes match of first \$1 Million endowment
- Spring 2009** Association allocates funding for part-time Archivist and Program Director
- 2010** Oehme van Sweden landscape development plan adopted, laid a course of replanting the cemetery with hundreds of new trees over the next ten years
- March 2010** Congressional Cemetery accepted to the Underground Railroad Network to Freedom
- 2010** Organ in the chapel refurbished
- November 4, 2010** Secretary of the Interior designated Historic Congressional Cemetery as a National Historic Landmark
- October 2010** Dead Man's Run 5K established
- 2011** National Blue Star Memorial plaque installed
- 2011** Two benches with engraved signatures of 13 signers for the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence installed
- 2012** Paul K. Williams starts as President of Association for Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery



- 
- 2012** The book, “Historic Congressional Cemetery” by Rebecca Roberts and Sandra K. Schmidt was published by Arcadia Press
- 2012** Arsenal Memorial restored by the Ancient Order of Hibernians in America and Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War and rose garden added.
- June 2013** Pride 5K established, partner with DC Front Runners
- September 2013** First day of the Dog Festival hosted with vendors, pet adoptions and canine activities
- Fall 2013** Eco-Goats, a herd of 58 goats placed along the perimeter of the cemetery’s grounds; Their mission: to graze around the clock for a week, consuming all of the invasive species in a 1½-acre space.
- Fall 2013** 1894 tin and copper tolling bell resorted by McShane Foundry, made possible by a grant from the Capitol Hill Community Foundation
- 2014** Cemetery road between the totem pole and 17<sup>th</sup> street gate, removing the asphalt and replacing with pavers to match other roads in cemetery
- 2014** East End Garage roof replaced, addition to house gantry
- 2014** Grant for \$50,000 from American Express and National Trust for Historic Preservation Partners in Preservation used to replace the roofs along mausoleum row: fill removed, barrel vault roofs repaired and sealed, surface area replaced with a Lite green roof manufactured by Live Roof
- Spring 2014** First obelisk columbarium installed at Congressional Cemetery, 10 feet tall with 20 companion niches, holding two or three urns on each side



- 
- March 18, 2014** Congressional Cemetery was certified as a green Hybrid Cemetery Provider by the Green Burial Council, the only cemetery within 100-mile radius of Washington, DC
- October 2015** *Ghosts & Goblets* retired; *Soul Strolls* established
- 2016** 160 feet of E Street and Jail wall rebuilt at the cost of \$84,000 by Merlino Construction, reusing historic brick on the interior and new concrete and field stone on the exterior
- Winter 2017** Cemetery Main Gate relocated to original position from 17<sup>th</sup> and H Street. Flaherty Iron Works in Alexandria, VA expanded the original gate to accommodate larger, modern trucks and matched the wrought iron posts and spindles to create two pedestrian gates for \$65,000 and replaced the Congressional Cemetery arch.
- 2018** Landscaping, driveway and sidewalk repaired
- 2019** Lease renewed between vestry and APHCC for 25 years, until 2039.
- March 15, 2020** Cemetery closed to the public because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Reopened in summer to K9 Corps members and ticketed events only.
- 2020** Wilson-Barton family mausoleum converted into 175 cremation niche spaces
- March 22, 2021** Cemetery reopens to the general public
- Fall 2021** Paul Williams leaves, Jaclyn Spainhour joins as the new President





---

## Field Guide to Marker and Monument Types<sup>11</sup>

**BARREL VAULTS** are unseen underground brick boxes the size of the deceased. The top seen as a hump the length of the body, is sometimes covered by plaster or cement. The ends may encase a marker for the deceased. These are much like the modern-day concrete burial vaults. The barrel vault was generally made for the wealthy. It is believed to be an English contribution.

**BEVEL MARKER** is a style usually found in twentieth century cemeteries. A rectangular grave marker, set low to the ground, it has straight sides and an inscribed surface raked at a low angle.

**BLOCK MARKERS** are made of granite and the type of marker most used today to mark burials. Most made of granite, age can be determined by the amount of engraving found on the stones., the early twenty century block markers began with few images, as time proceeded and lasers were used to create individual and elaborate designs of portraits of the deceased and activities that they held dear such as hunting, travelling and other worldly pursuits.

**BOX TOMB** also known as a table box or bench tomb is a solid, rectangular raised tomb or grave marker. A way to display wealth, these stone boxes are found mainly in urban historic cemeteries. The third burial marker that has European roots (tombstone, ledger, box tomb), this type of marker can be refined or simple. There are variations in box tombs. One variation is the sarcophagus, originally a limestone box used for burial by the Romans. The limestone would hasten the rate of decay and allow the box to be used by others.

**CENOTAPH** is a monument, usually of imposing scale, erected to commemorate one whose burial remains are at the separate location; literally *empty tomb*.

**COLUMBARIUM** is a vault or structure for storage of cinerary urns.

**COLUMN**, or pedestal monument, once a sign of victory by the Romans (Column of Trajan), was used in cemeteries as a symbol of morality. Columns were seen as more versatile in design options than the obelisk. The column could be topped with a sculptural element, such as an urn or an individual likeness. The base could be used to house the body of the deceased. Most columns found in the American cemeteries were erected between 1870 and 1900.

---

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.chicora.org/pdfs/Types%20of%20markers.pdf>



**FLAT MARKERS** are many times made of metal and are embedded in the ground. This style of marker is generally found in twentieth century cemeteries. This style became popular with perpetual care sites, for they allow mowing with ease.

**FOOT STONES** are much smaller in size than the headstone. Placed at the foot of the grave, these markers usually reflect the shape of the headstone or are square in shape. The most common decoration found on foot stones is the initials of the deceased. Others may denote relationships. Popularity of foot markers was at its height during the Victorian period.

**LEDGER** is a large slab of stone or concrete that covers the entire body of the interred and lays flat on the earth. Sometimes the ledger is accompanied with a headstone. Other ledgers are carved with the name, dates and epitaphs. The ledger is a traditional form that decorated European graves and was brought to the new world.

**MAUSOLEUM** is a monumental building or structure for burial of the dead above ground; a “community” mausoleum is one that accommodates a great number of burials.

**MONUMENT** A monument is a memorial stone, or a building erected in remembrance of a person or event. Monuments became popular during the Victorian period, when individuals were concerned about displaying their wealth and status within the community and their devotion to their family. Massive Victorian monuments reached the peak of popularity between 1860-1890.

**OBELISK** is an upright, four-sided pillar that gradually tapers as it rises and terminates in a pyramid. The obelisk is the most prolific object associated with the Egyptian culture used in cemetery monument design. This form was manipulated by monument companies into an object that could reach great heights while taking up limited ground space at a reasonable cost. One of the most famous American obelisks is the Washington monument. Either inserted directly in the ground or set upon a singular or stepped base, this is the most prolific monument shape used for marking burials.

**SCULPTURE** is usually representational in design and can be as small as a foot in height and as large as the imagination can dream. Religious figures, crosses, figures in mourning are only a few of the designs that may be found in three-dimensional works. Some designs exhibited different time periods and places, such as classical Greece. Other designs were portraits in stone usually found in bas-relief on markers or in classical garb in three dimensions. Rarely was portraiture created of the deceased in contemporary clothing. Although few people today have life-size reproductions created to mark their grave, you can still find some makers that stand out from the crowd.

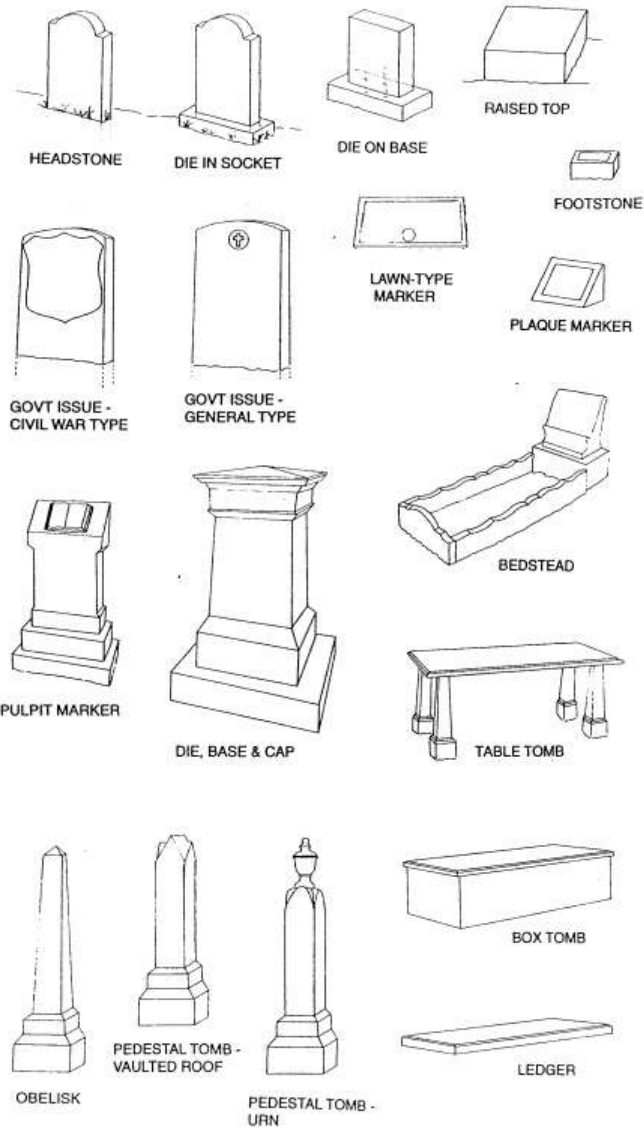
**TABLET MARKERS** the slab form can be traced back to the ancient funerary stele. The tombstone or tablet marker is the most traditional and universal form used to mark the head of the interred. The tablet can be placed directly in the ground, or it may be inserted





in a base. The base may be a different material than the top portion. Great variation exists at the top of the tablet. The simplest top, or tympanum, is the single classic curved arch or pointed Gothic arch or may feature a flat rectangular top. More elaborate and older baroque designs may be displayed in double or multi- curved shapes that can be convex, stepped, extended, angled, notched, or a composite of these formats. Early markers were made from native rock and wooden boards. The rock can still be found in many cemeteries, but the wood disappeared due to time and the natural elements and was replaced by tablet markers made of marble. By the twentieth century newer granite markers, block in shape, can be found as the predominate type being placed in historic and modern cemeteries to mark the graves of the recently departed, as well as some early graves that have lost their early headstones.

**VAULT** is a burial chamber, commonly underground.





---

## **Cemetery Preservation Terms<sup>12</sup>**

When giving tours of the cemetery, visitors may ask about the conditions of certain stones. Here are some terms to help you describe the stones. As you give tours, please report any changes in the conditions of the stones that you may notice.

### **CRACKS**

Narrow fissures or fractures in the stone. Each occurrence should be identified and documented.

### **DELAMINATION**

A condition that occurs when a stone breaks or separates along bedding planes usually resulting in breakage of those areas. This is most prevalent on slate and sandstone.

### **DISCOLORED/STAINED**

Discoloration of the stone caused by vegetation, fungus, pollution or chemical reaction should be noted and any indication of the cause of staining should be noted. Different stains require different approaches to cleaning.

### **DISPLACED**

A stone or part of a stone that has been moved from its original location.

### **EFFLORESCENCE/SUBFLORESCENCE**

Deposits of white salts on the surface of stone. It is an encrustation of soluble salts that could be caused by the use of fertilizers and weed-killers, air or water pollution, use of gray Portland cement in concrete and mortars, and some cleaning compounds. These salt deposits are called “efflorescence” when they occur on the surface of the stone and “subflorescence” when beneath the surface. Efflorescence is a critical sign that the stone is endangered.

### **EROSION**

Gradual wearing away of the surface, resulting in rounded, blurred edges, and damage to carved details. Erosion is caused by the natural abrasion of wind- and wind-blown particles, and also by dissolution of the surface by acidic rainfall.

---

<sup>12</sup> These terms were culled from numerous sources: *Grave Concerns, a Preservation Manual for Historic Cemeteries in Arkansas and Landscapes of Memories: a Guide for Conserving Historic Cemeteries, Repairing Tombstones*



---

**FALLEN**

Stones that have fallen are susceptible to accelerated damage and deterioration and should be righted.

**GYPSUM CRUST**

Common to marble and limestone. Decay caused by the acidic gases in the air. It is a black crust that, when removed, exposes the softer stone underlayment.

**IN SITU**

A stone that is in its original location.

**MOWER SCARS**

Abrasions caused by grass cutting equipment, usually near the bottom of the stone.

**SCALING**

The peeling away of the outer layer of stone.

**SOUNDNESS**

Condition of a marker that, after reasonable inspection, shows no sign of damage, no improper previous repairs and no excessive deterioration.

**SUGARING**

A granular, sometimes powdery, condition that is characteristic of some stone, particularly fine-grained marbles and limestone. Sugaring indicates gradual surface disintegration.

**TILTED/SUNKEN**

The extent to which a stone is sunken or tilted will determine the priority it will be given for resetting. Fragments Small pieces of broken stone.

---

**Funerary Symbols and Their Suggested Meanings<sup>13</sup>**

<i><b>Acorn</b></i>	Symbol of fertility and life, power of spiritual growth
<i><b>Anchor</b></i>	Hope; may represent sailing, seafaring or service in the Navy
<i><b>Angels</b></i>	Rebirth, protection, divine love, angels lead souls to heaven, Praying angel looking up represents intercession
<i><b>Apple</b></i>	The fruit of salvation, does not represent the fruit of the Garden of Eden
<i><b>Arches</b></i>	Roman symbol of the heavens; passage from this world into the next; triumph in death; journey to heaven
<i><b>Arrow</b></i>	When held by a cherub represents a spiritual weapon, dedicated to the service of God; represents death; could represent hunting or military if used with other weapons
<i><b>Banner</b></i>	Victory; God's love; triumph, rejoicing
<i><b>Beehive</b></i>	Symbol of a pious and unified community
<i><b>Bed</b></i>	A visual denial of death, as in "She is not dead, but sleepeth"
<i><b>Bird</b></i>	The soul; bird in flight represents the soul's flight to heaven
<i><b>Book</b></i>	Wisdom, knowledge, education; the Book of Life or record of the elect, which will be open at the end of the world
<i><b>Bouquet</b></i>	Life cut short, grief
<i><b>Burning Flame</b></i>	The soul; eternal life in the hereafter
<i><b>Butterfly</b></i>	Resurrection
<i><b>Calla Lily</b></i>	Marriage, fidelity
<i><b>Cannon</b></i>	Military service or profession
<i><b>Celtic Cross</b></i>	Union of heaven and earth
<i><b>Chain</b></i>	Links of the chain represents earthly existence; if one link is broken it represents the end of earthly existence; chain with three links represents the International Order of Odd Fellows
<i><b>Chalice</b></i>	Symbol of Christian faith
<i><b>Cherub</b></i>	Represents a heaven bound soul; spiritual resurrection; usually on children's stones

---

<sup>13</sup> Hacker, Debi. *The Iconography of Death: Common Symbolism of Late 18th Through Early 20th Century Tombstones in the Southeastern United States*, (2001).



<b><i>Clouds</i></b>	Symbol of heaven, heavenly reward, or unseen God
<b><i>Column</i></b>	Broken column represents life cut short; column with facades represents heaven
<b><i>Crown</i></b>	Christian fortitude; victory over sin and death; promise of eternal life
<b><i>Cypress</i></b>	Devotion to God; immortality; eternal life; mourning
<b><i>Dog</i></b>	As man's best friend it represents watchfulness and fidelity
<b><i>Door</i></b>	Entry to Heaven
<b><i>Dove</i></b>	Purity of the soul; peace; in flight, represents the soul going to heaven, the Holy Ghost
<b><i>Eagle</i></b>	The Christian soul strengthened by grace; may also represent nationalism, military profession, or Civil War veteran; Masonic symbol
<b><i>Eye</i></b>	All-knowing and ever-present God; Masonic symbol; Holy Trinity
<b><i>Female Figure</i></b>	Grief, sorrow
<b><i>Fern</i></b>	Humility, solitude and sincerity
<b><i>Finger, Downward</i></b>	Deceased has been chosen by God
<b><i>Finger, Upward</i></b>	Indicates that the soul has gone to heaven
<b><i>Fleur-de-Lis</i></b>	Trinity; the Virgin Mary; the three segments indicate faith, wisdom, and valor
<b><i>Flowers</i></b>	Goodness of life, abundant life; lushness of heavenly paradise
<b><i>Garland</i></b>	Victory in death
<b><i>Gate</i></b>	Death; heaven; reward of the faithful
<b><i>Grapes</i></b>	The grape is the symbol of the blood of Christ; spiritual resurrection
<b><i>Hand</i></b>	The hand of God
<b><i>Hands Clasped</i></b>	Farewell; hope of a meeting in heaven; union of marriage
<b><i>Harp</i></b>	Joy; worship; music of heaven; Irish descent; musical ability of deceased
<b><i>Heart</i></b>	Love; devotion; soul triumphant; courage
<b><i>Hourglass</i></b>	Symbol of mortality and the swift passing of earthly time
<b><i>Ivy</i></b>	Symbol of faithfulness and eternal life; death; friendship
<b><i>Lamb</i></b>	Symbol of Christ; innocence (found most often on a child's grave); On adult grave it represents a devout Christian; guidance from God
<b><i>Lamp</i></b>	Eternity; devotion to God; guidance and enlightenment from God; wisdom; piety; divine inspiration



<i>Lily of the Valley</i>	Devotion to God; purity, devotion; humility
<i>Log</i>	Divine harvest; end of life; Woodsman of the World symbol; part of the “rustic movement”
<i>Masonic Compass</i>	Freemasons
<i>Moon</i>	Eternity; sign of the second coming
<i>Morning Glory</i>	Shortness of a young life
<i>Oak</i>	Strength of faith and virtue; endurance of the Christian against adversity; Christ; Christian faith; valor
<i>Obelisk</i>	Eternal life; regeneration; when draped, represents mourning
<i>Olive</i>	Peace; marriage; fertility; family; crown or wreath of olives represents a spiritual victory
<i>Open Gates</i>	The spirit entering heaven
<i>Palm</i>	Symbol of victory; reward of the righteous; a righteous man,
<i>Peacock</i>	Immortality through resurrection
<i>Pinecone</i>	Ancient symbol for regeneration and fertility; immortality
<i>Poppies</i>	Rest; peace; mortality
<i>Rainbow</i>	God’s throne; heaven; symbol of pardon and of the reconciliation given to the human race by God
<i>Rope</i>	Binding together, as in a fraternal organization
<i>Rose</i>	Devotion to God; red rose represents martyrdom; white rose represents purity; paradise; the Virgin Mary; motherhood; rosebud represents a life cut short; love; grief
<i>Scallop Shell</i>	Birth; new life; baptism
<i>Scythe</i>	Death; end of life, divine harvest; man’s mortality
<i>Severed Branch</i>	Death; end of life cycle
<i>Sheaf of Wheat</i>	Divine harvest; bounty of life; fruitful life; end of a fruitful life
<i>Star</i>	Divine guidance, Christ; heaven
<i>Sun Shining</i>	Christ; heavenly light; heaven
<i>Swords</i>	Military profession
<i>Sword, broken</i>	Life cut short
<i>Swords, crossed</i>	Represents ranking military person



<b><i>Swords, points down</i></b>	Death during military service
<b><i>Sword held by angel</i></b>	Justice and mercy; judgment
<b><i>Thistle</i></b>	Scottish descent; Scotland; earthly sorrow and sin
<b><i>Tree</i></b>	Tree of Knowledge; symbol of life or death, depending on whether the tree is healthy or cut down
<b><i>Tree stump</i></b>	Part of the “rustic” movement; symbol of Woodsman of the World; death is inevitable, end of life
<b><i>Triangle</i></b>	Holy Trinity
<b><i>Trumpet</i></b>	Praise of God; Judgment Day
<b><i>Urn</i></b>	Mortality; grief; draped urn represents mourning
<b><i>Violet</i></b>	Humility, a flower of spring represents youth; short life
<b><i>Weeping Willow</i></b>	Mourning; sorrow; Christian faith, spreading of the Gospel;
<b><i>Wings</i></b>	Symbol of divine mission; angels, archangels, seraphim and cherubim have wings
<b><i>Winged Face/Head</i></b>	The soul in flight, joyful resurrection
<b><i>Winged Hourglass</i></b>	Mortality, man’s fleeting earthly existence
<b><i>Wreath</i></b>	Victory in death





---

## Frequently Asked Visitor Questions (and Answers)

### Active Burial Ground:

- *How many burials are there each year?*  
Each year is different, but on average, approximately 30 interments and 40 inurnments occur annually, for a total of roughly 60-70 burials each year.
- *What is a Green Burial?*  
Choosing a green burial means the deceased wishes to return to the earth by using only items which will decompose in their burial process. A pine box, wicker casket, and burial shroud are all examples of vessels used for this process. Many who choose this option also choose not to be embalmed.
- *How many plots are available?*  
Approximately 1,000 full burial plot sites are available. The majority are for cremated remains only due to underground obstructions. Approximately 400 full body sites remain for traditional or green burials, which can take place in any part of the cemetery.
- *How big is a plot?*  
A burial plot is 8 feet long, 3 feet wide and 6 feet deep. Typically, the two feet at the top is reserved for the headstone or grave marker. A grave can be dug to 10 feet deep, this is considered “Double deep” to accommodate two caskets in one plot.  
  
There is also the option to bury cremation urns in a plot. Up to eight urns can be placed in a single full plot. Other cremains options include a half plot or bench site. A half plot for cremated remains is 4 feet long and 3 feet wide. A bench site for cremated remains is 2 feet long and 3 feet wide. A scatter garden is also available around the Congressional Grove Columbarium.
- *What are the current price ranges for different areas and how were those prices determined?*  
Price is based on a competitor analysis and the desirability of location for each section of the cemetery. The cemetery is divided into three tiers for pricing. There is a Sites Sales folder handout with complete details and up to date pricing. Please see the attached color-coded map for your reference (Appendix A).



For a full burial:

**Lowest Price**

\$8,000 for full plot  
\$2,400 open and close costs  
\$800 lowering device cost

---

**\$11,200 for a full burial**

**Highest Price**

\$14,000 for full plot  
\$2,400 open and close costs  
\$800 lowering device cost

---

**\$17,200 for a full burial**

- *Mausoleum Row renovations of the Wilson-Barton Mausoleum into the Lockwood Columbarium—what do we do with the bones of the people that are already inside of it when we clean it out to sell the spaces?*  
The family in this mausoleum chose to relocate the bodies of their loved one to another cemetery in the 1980s when the cemetery was in disrepair. We do not disrupt anyone’s final resting place or resell them.
- *What is the policy for adding grave markers? Will HCC let you put anything you want on your marker?*  
You may have noticed with we have stones with all kinds of things on them. An accordion, knitting needles and yarn, a VW logo, and so on.... We give a lot of free reign here at HCC but we do have an oversight committee that reviews designs before they are approved.

**The Grounds:**

- *What was the official segregation policy of the cemetery--was it segregated? By tradition or by statute?*  
The by-laws adopted by the Christ Church vestry on March 30, 1812 stated that “no person of color shall be permitted to be buried within that part of the burial ground which is now enclosed.” There was not any mention about interments for African Americans outside the enclosed area of the Cemetery, which was about ¾ of the original Square 1115. There were at least 23 African Americans buried here before the Civil War, and two women were buried in the Cemetery during the Civil War. Most of these burials were in Range 24, sites 113-140, which were outside of the perimeter of the enclosed area of the Cemetery.
- *How many are buried in Babyland?*  
The rough estimate is 689. It is approximately 90% occupied. Truthfully, we do not know how many exactly because poor families that lost a child, especially during the Spanish Influenza epidemic would sometimes sneak into the Cemetery at night because they could not afford to purchase a plot, even at half size.



- *What is that GLANT tree just inside the front gate?*

Easily taller and older than the gatehouse opposite, this grand tree has a lowly name: The Swamp White Oak (*quercus bicolor*). It is magnificent. In the summer, its broad lobed leaves are bright shiny green on top, silver-white on the bottom (hence the “bicolor” in its Latin name). In autumn, the leaves turn a hundred shades of red, yellow and brown. The Swamp Oak’s height is impressive, as is its girth (a 2010 landscape survey measured it at a hefty 49 inches in diameter). But what is most noticeable, is how far its branches spread horizontally. The tree is wider than it is tall. The bark is smooth on small branches, purplish brown, and separates into large, papery scales. On larger branches and trunks, it breaks into broad, flat ridges, with deep fissures between. And, like all oaks, it produces acorns. Trees for Capitol Hill once named it Tree of the Year.

- *Is the bell at the gatehouse still used for funerals and other occasions?*

Yes, the bell by the gatehouse is fully restored and functional. It is used to announce the arrival of funerals for funerals, at events and to alert those presence of imminent closures.

- *Are there still “letterboxes” located throughout the cemetery?*

Yes, we have a whole letterbox self-guided tour brochure that is currently incomplete and scheduled for refurbishment.

- *What are the statues of Lincoln and Douglass for?*

The Mathew Brady Memorial was installed in September 2022 by Board Member Larry West. The statues are to honor two of Brady’s most famous photography subjects as being an homage to Brady’s life and legacy.

- *Can I go into the Public Vault?*

No guests are allowed to walk into the Public Vault. The vault is used as event space.

- *Are the Confederate markers pointed to keep Yankees from sitting on them?*

We hear this all the time. We like this story but usually couch it like “It is said...or according to legend” instead of an official position. But it is most likely apocryphal. These types of stones were not installed until 40 years after the Civil War.

Here is a resource from the National Archives: <https://www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2003/spring/headstones-sidebar.html>



---

## **K9 Corps Rules and Information**

### **What are the requirements for membership?**

K9 Corps membership is a privilege, not a right, and is maintained through an active relationship between dog owners and the cemetery. Members are required to submit an annual membership fee of \$400 for one dog. Additional dogs can be added for a \$50 fee each (up to two additional dogs per family) annually. These fees support the ongoing work at HCC to preserve our sacred burial ground.

Additionally, volunteerism is at the core of the K9 Corps program. Each family that registers for a volunteer membership is required to commit to serving eight (8) volunteer hours annually in support of cemetery activities. Volunteer hours are a requirement because we wish for our members to be invested in the cemetery and in relationship with the staff, visitors, and other members. Volunteer opportunities are robust and vary from season to season.

### **What types of volunteer opportunities are available?**

Volunteering can be done as an individual or in groups, onsite or offsite, virtually or in-person. Our offerings include taking photographs, clerical work, conservation, clean-up, giving tours, working events, and more. If you need a special accommodation or project, one can be made for you. Please contact the office for a more personalized volunteer opportunity.

### **Why do I see so many closures to dogs each week? Is this common?**

As an active burial ground, our first duty is to those interred on the site and to the families of those burying their loved ones. For this reason, we commit to providing a dog-free atmosphere during all burials out of respect for the bereaved. Typically, the cemetery is closed one hour prior to a burial until one hour after the burial. There is a bell we will ring 15 minutes before a service to announce the coming closure should any dogs be onsite prior to the closing. As we often cannot predict when our burial services will be needed more than a few days in advance, these closures can occur with limited notice to the K9 Corps. The K9 corps will be notified of these closures by text and email as the information becomes available. We appreciate your understanding when this occurs; and your continued respect for our grieving families.

Additionally, we raise funds as a nonprofit by hosting private events and public programs. Closures to dogs coincide with these events, as well as for maintenance and conservation work. Your cooperation and understanding are appreciated as we continue to raise funds to keep our grounds beautiful and open for years to come.



***Want to know when we are closed? Get real time text alerts by texting DOG to 97063.***

The Cemetery is always closed to dog walking between 11am and 3pm every Saturday and on specific holidays, including Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Cemetery staff or the HCC Board of Directors may direct further closures on an as-needed basis. Thank you for your cooperation.

**What are the rules and regulations once I become a member?**

HCC is first and foremost a functioning cemetery, not a "dog park," and dog walking is a privilege that is limited to members of the HCC K9 Corps. Non-member dog walking is only permitted with the purchase of a one-day pass, and pass holders must follow K9 Corps rules. Collective enjoyment of the Cemetery should be readily possible as long as all dog walkers are courteous and considerate toward each other, the cemetery grounds, and other visitors.

The K9 Corps Committee has established the following rules and regulations to ensure that the Cemetery remains both a safe and pleasant environment for all. Please review these carefully; members will indicate agreement to fully comply with all terms and conditions of K9 Corps membership by signing an Acceptance of Rules/Waiver and Release of Liability at their annual **mandatory** membership orientation. Payment of the day-pass fee by non-members signifies an agreement to follow all K9 Corps rules. **Those found in violation of any of these rules may have their privileges revoked immediately and without refund.**

1. **Display of K9 Corps tag(s) at all times.** No member dog may enter the Cemetery grounds without its current K9 Corps tag displayed. Should replacement tag(s) be needed, a fee of \$10 will be charged for each new tag issued.
2. **Control of animals at all times.** All members/dog walkers must be in control of their dog(s), and aware of the location(s) of dog(s) at all times. This applies to K9 Corps members, day-pass holders, and any individual who brings a K9 Corps member dog to HCC.
3. **Limitation on dogs.** An individual K9 Corps member or day-pass holder may bring **no more than two dogs** to the HCC grounds at one time, unless an additional person is present. (The ratio may not exceed two dogs per visitor.) Non-member dogs are **not permitted** without a day-pass purchase.
4. **No exceptions policy on spay-neuter and vaccinations.** All dogs walked in the Cemetery must be spayed or neutered and up to date on rabies and distemper vaccinations. Members and pass holders agree to provide such proof to HCC staff or the K9



Committee at any time upon request. Members must provide spay-neuter status and vaccination expiration dates as part of annual orientation, and pass holders at the time of their first day-pass purchase or upon request. Any and all dogs walked in the Cemetery must be spayed or neutered; **no exceptions** will be made to this policy, **including for puppies that have not yet reached spay-neuter age.**

5. **Cemetery closure to all dogs.** The Cemetery is closed to dog walking **between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. every Saturday and on specific holidays**, including Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Cemetery staff or the HCC Board of Directors may direct further closures on an as-needed basis, such as in response to a declared public health emergency. Members will be notified of changes through signage and via email/text.
6. **Dog walking is prohibited during ALL burials and services.** The Cemetery will also be closed at other times for special events, as announced in advance to the K9 Corps. Notifications of periodic closures for burials and events are sent via email and text to all members/walkers, posted on [congressionalcemetery.org](http://congressionalcemetery.org), and signage indicating closure is placed at the HCC main gate. It is the walker's responsibility to confirm that the Cemetery is open to dogs before visiting. **To maintain the integrity of non-dog walking events, the owner of any dog found to be on the Cemetery grounds during closure hours will have their membership/day-pass privileges immediately revoked.**
7. **Respect for HCC visitors and other dog walkers.** At ALL times dogs must be kept away from individuals visiting grave sites, as well as from any burial services, ceremonies, group tours, grounds maintenance crews, and all other non-dog walking visitors and activities. All dog walkers are expected to show respect to their fellow walkers. Any individual who engages in abusive, hostile, or other inappropriate behavior that potentially endangers the safety and well-being of others may be permanently banned from entering the Cemetery.
8. **Respect for HCC grounds.** All members/walkers must be respectful of the Cemetery monuments and grave markers. Because of the risk of damage and/or injury, do not sit or lean on the gravestones. Dogs, children, and others must not climb on the grassy areas covering the family vaults. **The use of balls, Frisbees, or dog toys of any kind is not permitted in the Cemetery** out of concern for the monuments and grounds. Also, both K9 Corps members and the general public are prohibited from using or bringing onto Cemetery grounds any wheeled devices, including but not limited to bicycles or any self-balancing personal transporters (e.g., motorized or non-motorized scooters, skateboards, Segways, hoverboards, etc.). This prohibition does not apply to anyone who requires a medical device or uses a stroller or carrier exclusively for the purpose of carrying a child or pet.



9. **Cleaning up after dogs.** Regardless of the weather or time of day or year, members/walkers must clean up after all dogs at all times, disposing of waste properly. If you see waste, please pick it up even if it was not left by your dog. Please bring a flashlight if you come after dark.
10. **Leashing of dogs during grave visits.** Visitors who bring a dog when visiting the grave of a loved one must keep the dog on leash at all times. The only exceptions are for active K9 Corps members and paid day-pass holders.
11. **Leashing of dogs for entry/exit.** ALL dogs must be on leash while entering and exiting the gates. Signs are posted to indicate where it is permissible to unleash your dog. Members/walkers are also encouraged to “keep it moving” around the gates and other high-traffic areas in order to avoid critical masses of dogs, which can bring on aggressive behavior.
12. **Applicability of rules to professional dog walkers.** Professional dog walkers must register with the Cemetery on an annual basis – providing any updates to contact and client information as needed – and complete the Acceptance of Rules/Waiver and Release of Liability. **It is the responsibility of the K9 Corps member to ensure their dog walker is aware of this requirement.** Professional dog walkers must adhere to all K9 Corps rules, including the limitation on walking **no more than two member dogs at a time** (non-member dogs are not permitted). If this policy is violated, both the walker and owner will receive a warning and, should a future violation occur, **both walker and owner will be banned** from dog walking in the Cemetery.
13. **Applicability of rules to day-pass holders.** As stated, individuals purchasing a one-day pass must adhere to all K9 Corps rules and regulations. Those found to be in violation will have their day-pass privileges permanently revoked and, per the decision of the K9 Committee, may be prohibited from obtaining future K9 Corps membership.
14. **Aggressive dogs and handling of incidents.** Each and every incident of aggressive dog behavior that walkers are involved in or witness must be reported via an **Incident Report** (web form available at [congressionalcemetery.org/k9-corps](http://congressionalcemetery.org/k9-corps) or hard copy available in the HCC office). All walkers must strongly discourage rough or aggressive play by their dogs. Should an aggressive dog incident occur, the following apply:
  - o **Apologies** for aggressive behavior are expected.
  - o **A report must be submitted** to make HCC staff and the K9 Committee aware of each incident caused by an aggressive dog. These reports are reviewed by the K9 Committee and HCC staff, and the K9 Committee will rule at its regular meetings on any action(s) necessary to enforce the K9 Corps rules.



- 
- **An exchange of contact information between parties will occur with every incident.** If appropriate, parties are encouraged to resolve minor incidents among themselves. An incident report should still be submitted by one or both parties.
  - **Payment of any vet bills by the owner(s) of the aggressive dog(s) is mandatory.**
  - Dogs that engage in repeated instances of aggressive behavior may be required to be leashed or muzzled while on the Cemetery grounds.
  - Dogs that are deemed a danger (to humans, animals, or otherwise) by HCC and/or the K9 Committee will be banned from the Cemetery grounds for life.
15. **Membership terms and conditions.** The 2023 K9 Corps membership term is March 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024. Only dogs that have been issued member tags are permitted to walk in the Cemetery. K9 Corps memberships are non-refundable and non-transferable.





## Helpful Links

Incident Report: <https://congressionalcemetery.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/k9-incident-form>

K9 Rules and Regulations: <https://congressionalcemetery.org/membership/>

Day Pass Waiver: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdabDILYM-z1fBycTSJWLhO2YJEpIEZN94tBgiD6\\_9JogYVTQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdabDILYM-z1fBycTSJWLhO2YJEpIEZN94tBgiD6_9JogYVTQ/viewform)

Volunteer Hours Reporting: <https://congressionalcemetery.dm.networkforgood.com/forms/volunteer-credit-submission-form>

Text Alerts: **DOG** to **97063**

Sign up for Email List: <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/tnQrv9F/Notification>

Search Interment Records: <https://congressionalcemetery.org/records-search/>

Download Self-Guided Tour: <https://congressionalcemetery.org/news-tours/>

Take a Virtual Tour: <https://congressionalcemetery.org/visit-virtually/>

Payment Options (Day Pass and Donations):

Congressional Cemetery  
@CongCem



**venmo**

Paypal:

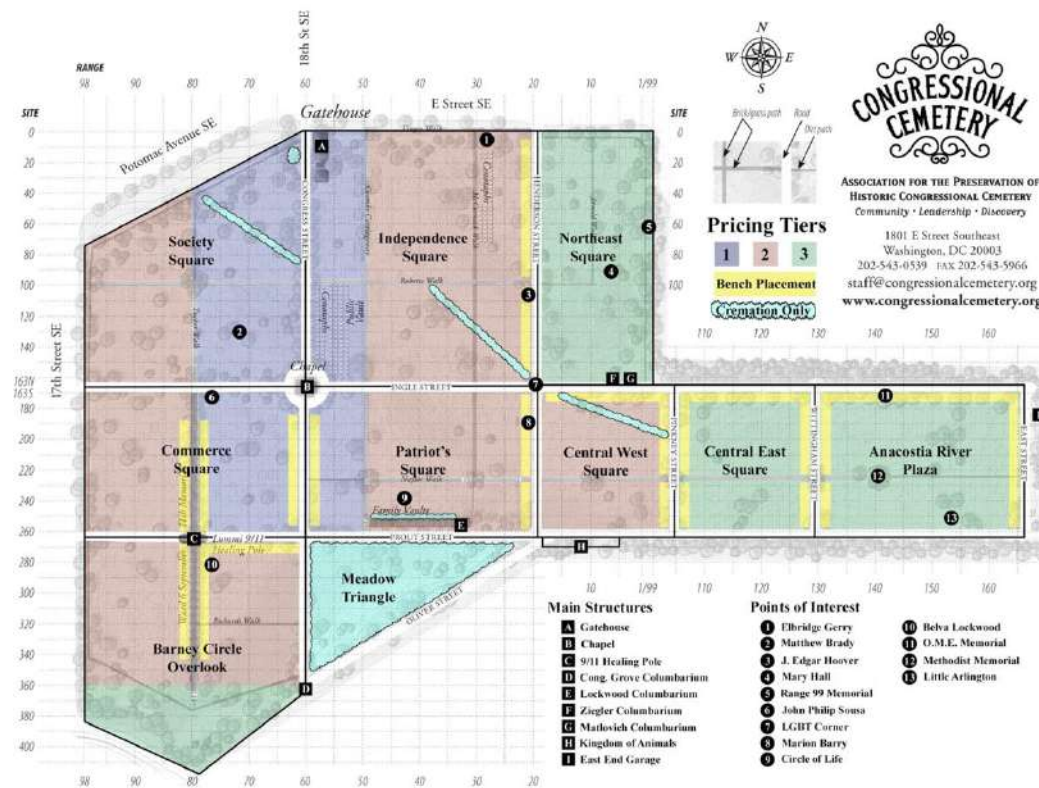


Square:



## Appendix A. Color-coded Pricing Map

Tier 1 is the most expensive at \$14,000 per plot, Tier 2 represents \$12,500 per plot, and Tier 3 indicates \$8,000 per plot. These are the prices for a full body plot. Additional pricing is available for half sites and bench sites. Other fees for burials are not included in the price of the plot. Examples of fees accrued for burials are lowering device rentals, opening and closing fees, and fees associated with the funeral and chapel use. The first hour of chapel use is free with the purchase of a site.



Appendix B. Illustrated Map of Notable Residents and Features by Mary Belcher





### Appendix C. Range and Site Numbering System

