2 0 2 0 ANNUAL REPORT





Letter from the President

Friends and Donors of Historic Congressional Cemetery,

As I write this, I pause to note that it was in early March of 2020—a year ago—that I returned from visiting an elderly aunt in a nursing home in Florida. While we discussed the potential pandemic and took precautions such as temperature checks, little did I know that would be the last personal or business trip I would take for the next year. Conferences and gatherings were canceled, postponed, or held virtually. I normally do a fair amount of traveling for work, and let us just say that the cemetery has credits on Delta Airlines for use in 2021.

As the pandemic closed offices and people began working from small Capitol Hill homes, we were counting 300 people an hour entering and exiting through our gate, so we made the hard decision to completely close the cemetery to the visiting public, including our beloved K9 Corps members. It was not easy, but we feel we did our part to prevent gatherings of large numbers of people. Our events were postponed or canceled in the beginning, and then we began to get creative to hold our fall events in keeping with the city's limit of outdoor gatherings of 25 or less.

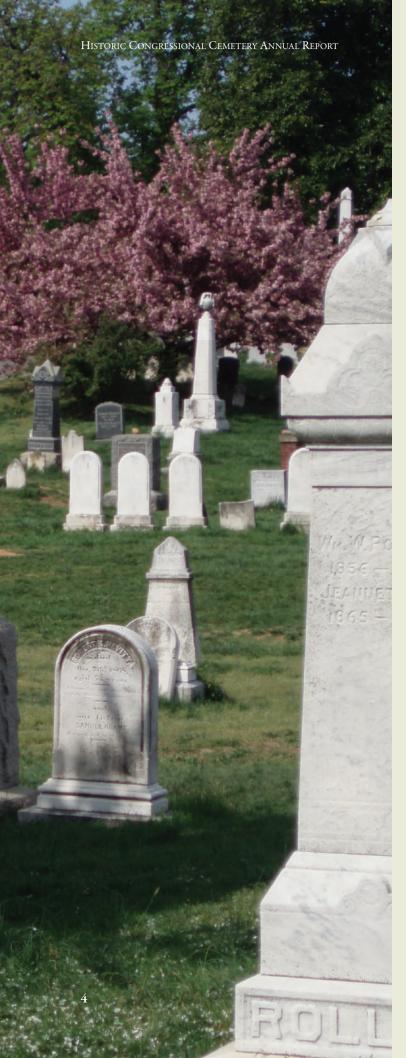
Our donors remained generous, and thankfully we partially reopened in September. K9 Corps members did not ask for their membership fees to be returned, despite not having access to the grounds for nearly six months. We secured and qualified for forgiveness for a Paycheck Protection Program loan, adding two full-time employees in the newly formed position of gate checker.

This year's annual report may look a bit different due to all the changes. Join us as we say goodbye to 2020 and look forward to 2021.

Paul K. Williams

(Paul Milliams

President



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About Historic Congressional Cemetery

ith the first burial in 1807, Historic Congressional Cemetery is among the oldest institutions in Washington, DC, and the final resting place for scores of individuals who were instrumental in the founding of the nation and its new capital city. In addition, it is the only place in Washington where one can be buried in a site directly on L'Enfant's 18th century city plan.

Historic Congressional Cemetery was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2011 and continues to build upon the legacy of over 200 years of American history. The Cemetery is administered by the nonprofit Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery and owned by Christ Church, Washington Parish. The Association is constantly striving to maintain the historic, cultural, and aesthetic qualities of this natural landscape along the Anacostia River.

- Hundreds of volunteers each year help maintain and promote the cemetery.
- Burial sites are still available to the general public.
- Notable burials include John Philip Sousa, the March King; Mathew Brady, civil war photographer; and Elbridge Gerry, signer of the Declaration of Independence.
- Veterans from every American war are buried in the Cemetery.
- We promote innovative and sustainable practices, such as beekeeping, grazing goats, and a dog-walking program, and are the only cemetery in Washington, DC, that allows green burial options.
- Congressional Cemetery is open to the public every day from dawn to dusk. Unless special circumstances
 require it, we do not allow cars to drive in, but we welcome visitors to walk around the grounds and explore
 the history that is here.

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

Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery
https://congressionalcemetery.org/
1801 E Street, SE | Washington, DC 20003 | 202-543-0539 | staff@congressionalcemetery.org

Our Mission

Historic Congressional Cemetery 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.

2020 at a Glance

61

new trees planted (including 8 Circle of Life trees, 1 memorial magnolia, and 52 trees supporting Casey Trees' mission to recanopy D.C.)

1,679

people watched our virtual tours (from as far away as California, New Zealand, and Germany)

831

K9 Corps dogs enjoyed socially distant romps (and runs and barks and wags) 149

headstones restored and

155

headstones cleaned (30% of the northeast quadrant of Section 3 is now complete)

3,171

tickets sold and more than

\$92,500

in income generated (from revisiting Shakespeare, snuggling with goats, strolling with souls, and more) 2,273

hours worked by

273

volunteers (equivalent to more than \$61,000 in savings)

19,327

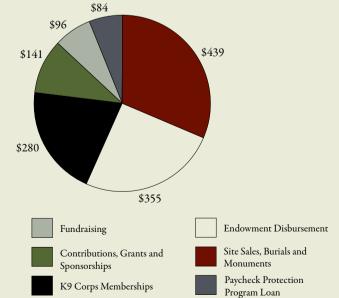
virtual partygoers celebrated John Philip Sousa's birthday (including Austin Elementary Knights 4th and 5th grade music classes in Harlingen, TX.)

\$362,000

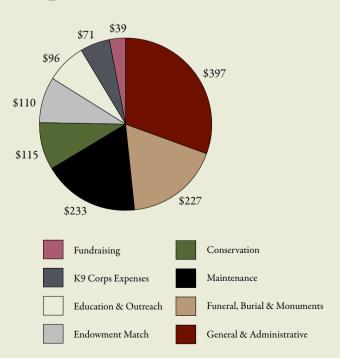
in income generated from site sales and burials

2020 Income and Expenses

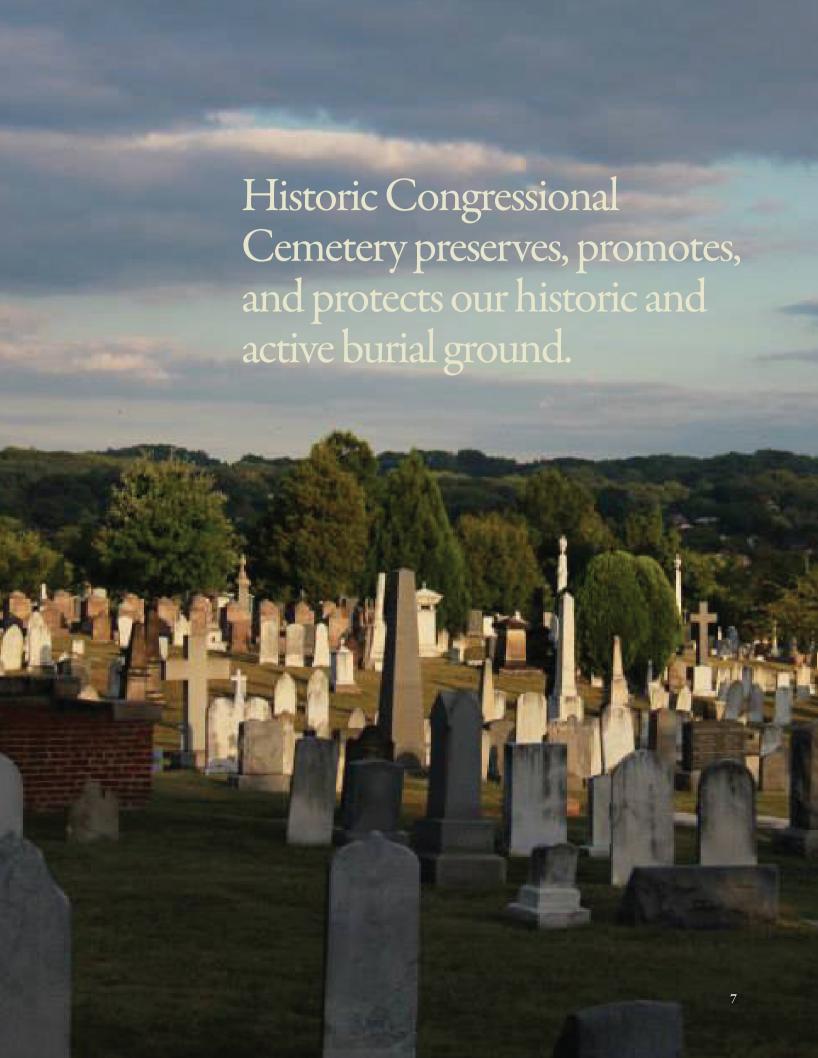
Income



Expenses



Dollars in thousands



Accomplishments and Highlights

Education

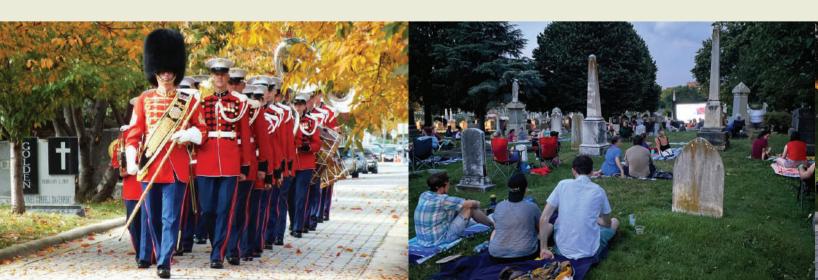
For more than 200 years, the history of Washington, DC—and the United States—has been written on the stones of Historic Congressional Cemetery. To preserve these stories and celebrate our nation's history, we adapted in 2020 and reached audiences worldwide.

- Our dedicated docents helped us innovate livestream virtual tours that have been viewed by thousands—including audiences in California, Arizona, Germany, and New Zealand.
- We launched a new Virtual Visits webpage that offers audiences the opportunity to take a self-guided virtual tour, explore 360-degree images of the cemetery, and compare pictures from 1913 with pictures of today.
- We partnered with Historic America to create and share their Dead, White & Blue video series, spotlighting the final chapters and resting places of famous Americans and the extraordinary cemeteries where they're found.
- In-person, socially distant, guided tours resumed in June; more than 200 people joined us over 32 tours in 2020. As life begins to return to normal in 2021, we will continue to explore how to leverage our virtual success to expand access to our history.

Historic Preservation

Our commitment to protecting Historic Congressional Cemetery as a National Historic Landmark was made possible this year thanks to the efforts of two summer interns, 22 Preservation and Restoration Opportunities (PRO) crew volunteers, and hours of sweat equity. We also invested in a new GIS base map to increase the efficiency of our conservation efforts. Collectively, these resources helped us continue our historic preservation efforts, including:

- Cleaning 155 headstones, setting 39 new foundations, repointing 30 headstones, removing 20 pins, and painting two plot fences.
- Restoring the Hamilton Vault to its original appearance.
- Converting the Wilson-Barton Mausoleum into a columbarium with the installation of 176 granite-faced niches and two benches.



Community Engagement

Community engagement mattered more than ever in 2020, and it was also more challenging than ever before. Despite the challenges, we found plenty of opportunities to get our neighbors involved in our mission and offer opportunities to gather and celebrate our heritage.

- We partnered with the Folger Shakespeare Library and four local restaurants to turn Cinematery into a socially distant Dinner & A Movie, presenting "Shakespeare Revisited" and supporting community businesses.
- The Dead Man's Run became a Virtual Skeleton Crew 5K, drawing proceeds from t-shirt sales beyond registration.
- The annual Soul Strolls was yet again a sold out event, bringing 1,573 visitors to experience our history over four nights in October.
- John Philip Sousa's Birthday Celebration went virtual—and global—with more than 19,300 views from places as far away as Poland, the U.K., and Argentina.
- Goat Yoga, outdoor Pet Portraits, and a community yard sale rounded out our 2020 activities.

Environmental Stewardship

Our trees work harder than we realize to support the environment. They help clean our air, absorb stormwater, support wildlife, and are even known to help decrease stress, anxiety, and depression—which was more important than ever this year. We planted 61 new trees throughout the cemetery in 2020 to keep our community healthy and protect our environment, including:

- 52 in the spring as part of Casey Trees' mission to re-canopy D.C.
- 8 trees in formation as The Circle of Life.
- 1 memorial magnolia tree donated by a family for their infant daughter.
- We also cleared the 17th Street hillside and planted ivy as ground cover to address challenging overgrowth and prevent dangerous erosion.



Donors

Historic Congressional Cemetery wishes to thank its many donors and supporters whose generosity makes it possible for us to continue to celebrate the legacy of those interred here and serve as stewards of more than 200 years of history in our Nation's capital.

Mark Adelson
Heather Alarcon
Kathleen Ames
Robert Anderson
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In Honor of Mr. & Mrs. Bobby G. Rogers Lenora Rogers

Institutional Donors

In Honor of Sue Urahn

Richard and Catherine Oliver Family Trust

Gifts in Kind

The following have provided donations and in-kind services in support of our programming and special events.

Amazed Crab

Folger Shakespeare Library

Historic America

The Gift of Time

During the past year, Historic Congressional Cemetery's 273 volunteers contributed more than 2,273 hours of service in support of our education, historic preservation, community engagement, and environmental stewardship programs.

We are grateful for each and every donation and sincerely apologize for any errors or omissions in our 2020 donor list.

Partial funding for the preservation and maintenance of Historic Congressional Cemetery is provided by the 1998 Congressional Cemetery Endowment, which was created with matching funds provided by the Congress of the United States and administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

