

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

CONGRESSIONAL
CEMETERY

DC's Greatest
Undertaking





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.

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

Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery
congressionalcemetery.org

Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

Welcome to Historic Congressional Cemetery’s 2025 Annual Report. By exploring this document, you will learn about the activities of the past year and read the names of the individuals and organizations who made 2025 a great success. For me, this has been a memorable year for the warm welcome I have received since my arrival in September. My thanks are extended to each of you for allowing me to become a part of this extraordinary community.

Among the first to greet me was Board Chair Richard Greene whose service to the organization has been unparalleled. For nearly seven years, Richard was a stalwart member of the Board, the final four as Chair. His dedication, wisdom and warmth provided Historic Congressional Cemetery the leadership it needed at critical moments.

Special thanks are also extended to Director of Programming A.J. Orlikoff who served as Interim Executive Director after Jackie Spainhour departed in early 2025. Through his energy and inspiration, A.J. propelled the organization forward with innovative programming, capable management of the organization’s resources and thoughtful planning for the future.

Among the initiatives he spearheaded was a master planning process. Conducted under the direction of our colleagues at Rhodeside & Harwell, this year-long process examined the natural and historic resources of Congressional Cemetery, resulting in a detailed plan that will guide the care and development of the cemetery for much of the next decade. The process included focus groups, surveys and community meetings where we gathered your ideas. Our thanks go out to everyone who helped make this process a success.

Through programs and events, the community celebrated the legacy of those interred here. Notable highlights included LGBTQ programming affiliated with DC’s WorldPride celebration and a graverobbing themed Soul Strolls. Perhaps most importantly, we continued to serve grieving families, providing a sacred space where their loved ones can find eternal rest.

We hope you will find inspiration within the pages of this report. Thank you for your continued engagement and support in 2025. We look forward to continuing our important work in 2026.

Sincerely,

Mark Hudson

**Executive Director
Historic Congressional Cemetery**





Staff and Board of Directors

2025 Board of Directors

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Staff

December 31, 2025

Margaret Canilang, Records Manager

Antonio Coghill, K9 Liaison

Kurt Deion, History Education Manager

Dayle Dooley, Archivist

James Guckert, Director of Facilities & Grounds

Mark Hudson, Executive Director

Lisa Malear, Director of Burial Sites & Interments

Andrea McCants, Finance

Anthony "A.J." Orlikoff, Director of Programming

Kennedy Simpson, Programs & Education Coordinator

Jennifer Walter, Office Manager

Gabriella Welsh, Events & Marketing Coordinator

Interns & Contributors

Heather Gleason, Development Consultant

Makenna Graves, Records Intern

Kitty Linton, Photographer & Social Media Coordinator

Laura Lyster-Mensch, Death Doula-in-Residence

Sharon Metcalf, Circle of Life and Arboretum Accreditation

Ashley Molese, Curator-in-Residence

About Historic Congressional Cemetery

Congressional Cemetery is a privately chartered cemetery founded in 1807 in Washington, DC. Owned by Christ Church Washington Parish, the cemetery is operated by the Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery, a 501(c)(3) organization.

The 35-acre property, situated in the heart of Capitol Hill, serves as both an active burial site and a historic location that preserves the legacy of those buried in the cemetery, many of whom played instrumental roles in the history of our nation.

As a National Historic Landmark, the cemetery not only has local architectural and social significance but also contributes to the national heritage of the United States and is a national tourist destination.

Historic Congressional Cemetery is also an active hub for community engagement including a robust dog walking program, historic preservation projects, unique educational programs, and environmental stewardship efforts.



2025 at a Glance

Burials and Monuments

Stones repaired and conserved: **53**
 Funerals and interments: **67**

Programs

Attendance at events: **11,985**
 Guided tour attendance: **1,060**

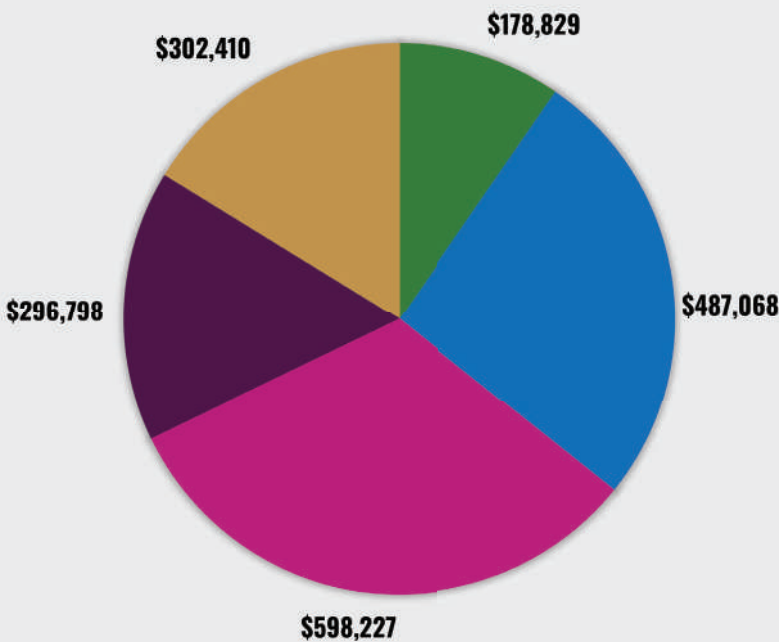
Grounds

Adopted Plots: **262**
 Trees planted: **7**

Volunteers

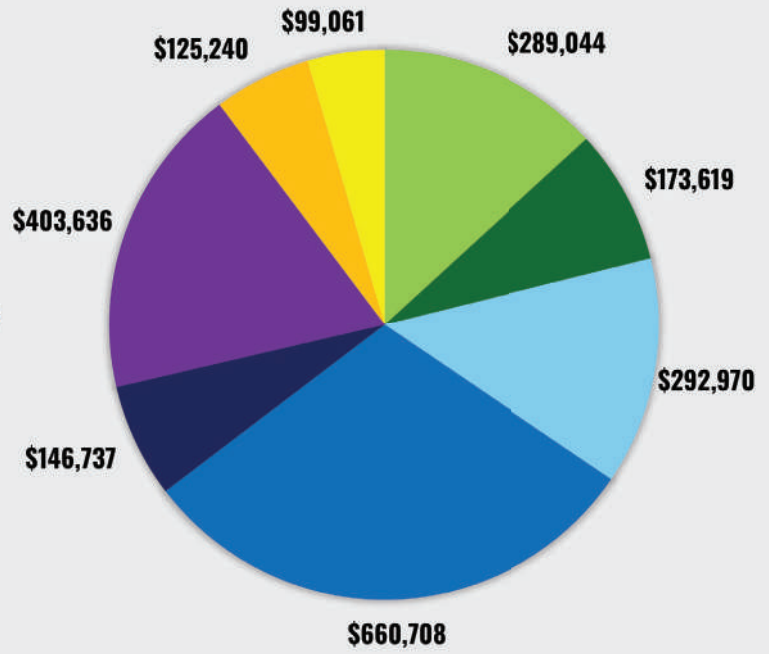
Number of volunteers: **684**
 Volunteer Hours: **3,070**

Income: \$1,863,332



- Contributions & Grants
- K9 Corps
- Site Sales & Burials
- Events & Programs
- Endowment & Interest

Expenses: \$2,191,015



- Buildings & Grounds
- Conservation
- Education & Outreach
- Administration & General
- Funerals & Burials
- Master Plan
- K9 Corps
- Fundraising



Accomplishments and Highlights

Master Planning

Throughout 2025, Historic Congressional Cemetery engaged in a comprehensive Master Planning process with our partners at Rhodeside & Harwell (RHI). As part of the process, we engaged with the community through focus groups, community meetings, and surveys. The resulting plan (completed in early 2026) will guide the development and care of the cemetery for the next decade and beyond with a focus upon burial expansion, the visitor experience, stormwater management, and sustainability.

Soul Strolls

With the theme “Grave Robbing and Resurrection,” Soul Strolls returned to the Cemetery in October. During the three weekends of the event, 2,350 people discovered the dark deeds of DC’s past, learning about the Cemetery’s history through this outdoor, immersive theater event. The event generated over \$130,000 for the Cemetery and garnered strong media attention, including a feature in the Washington Post.

Pride Events

Coinciding with DC’s hosting of WorldPride 2025, the Cemetery held numerous pride events in June, including the Pride 5K, special tours, and a thematic speaker series featuring LGBTQ+ historian Dr. Jake Desai-Newsome. Our celebration culminated in the Gays & Graves Festival on June 21.

Public Programs

Activities like Cinematery, 5K races, the Fulcrum Residential Halloween Happening, Mausoleums & Manuscripts writers’ workshops and the Tombs & Tomes book club, shared the unique landscapes and stories of Congressional Cemetery with ever-increasing audiences, providing a welcoming and safe space for the community to gather.

Educational Outreach

Building upon programs piloted in 2024, the Cemetery expanded its educational outreach for K-12 students. Docent-led guided tours and the Cemetery Speaker Series explored historic topics through formal and informal learning experiences.



Death Awareness

Congressional Cemetery promoted a healthy attitude towards mortality by offering unique resources and programs. In 2025, our Death Awareness programming included Death Cafes, Mortality Tea Rooms, Grief Karaoke and a Día de los Muertos event. These activities furthered a spirit of curiosity and even a sense of humor about this often-taboo subject.

Remembrances

On September 20, Congressional Cemetery conducted the third and final reinterment of the remains of Major General Alexander Macomb, Commanding General of the U.S. Army from 1828 to 1841. The event, which included military honors, was attended by descendants of Macomb.

Congressional Cemetery joined with burial sites throughout the nation on December 13 for Wreaths Across America. Nearly 100 volunteers helped place wreaths at the gravesites of veterans, honoring their service and sacrifice.

Sustainability

Our commitment to environmental sustainability was expressed through activities throughout the grounds, including tree walks, the Adopt-a-Plot program and the Spring Fair and Bataala Parade. Efforts to attain Level I Arboretum Accreditation were substantiated by the identification of 25 unique tree varieties. Through our partnership with the DC Beekeeper Alliance, we maintained healthy apiaries in the Cemetery.

Conservation

We repaired and conserved 53 gravestones and monuments at a cost of \$90,000. This work was carried out by stone conservator Devlin McDonald and demonstrated Congressional Cemetery's ongoing commitment to gravesite care.

Dog Walking

Hundreds of families and their four-legged friends made Congressional Cemetery a lively place throughout the year. K9 Corps members provided vital financial support and volunteer service, while also keeping watch over the 35-acre site. This community enjoyed K9-focused events, like Yappy Hours throughout the year.





Donors

Historic Congressional Cemetery extends thanks to the many donors and supporters who helped make 2025 another successful year. We have made every effort to ensure these lists are complete and accurate and apologize for any omissions or inaccuracies.

Partial funding for the care 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.

\$1,000+

Dorothy Carpenter
Jon & RuthAnn Clark
RuthAnn Clark
Ernest Dewald
Shawn Freeman
Kindy French
Richard Greene
William Tener & Ann Marie Guzzi
Palmer Hough
Cornelia Hyatt
Evelyn Kurhajetz
Barry McGinnis
John J. McGrath
Sharon Metcalf
Michael Mihalke
Nathan Neal
Sid Neely Jr.
Jane Pearce
Patricia McClosky Richards
Julia Roberson
Christine Romero
Ann M. Sibert
Susan Urahn
Jennette Volpe
Helena Wright

\$500-\$999

Laura H. Belman
Samuel Cornale
Kimberly Crichton
Michelle M Esperdy
Jean Hacken
Margaret-Ann Hamilton
Kathleen Hobson
Mark & Julie Hudson
Ruth Kroeger
Elizabeth Latham
Rebecca Maestri
Joyce B. Pazianos

Deborah Perry
Laura Schauble
Luther Shank IV
Jeffery Trinca
Larry West

\$100 to \$499

Kirsten Ahern
Kerry Allen
Robert Anderson
Kristi Barksdale
Betty Barnett
Edward Barrows
Natalie Beckman
Paul Beddoe
Michael Bedwell
Randall Beisecker
Caral Mechling Bennett
James H. Benson
Karen Berry
Richard Berzon
Wendy Blair
Patricia Brown
Fred Brown
Kim Bryant
Dolores Stokes Burgess
Bruce Carlton
Jay Castano
Barbara Fahs Charles
Heather Cipu
Constance Citro
Andrew Clark
Dolores Clarke
Samantha Collins
Katie Comer
Marsha Conway
James B. Crown
Howard M. Crystal
Sarah Cusenza

Judith Damewood
Diane M. De Grazia
Nancy Deck
Susan Dennis
Amythest Devlin
Mike Dodman
Abigail Duggan
Julie Dwyer
Allen Davis Elliott
Brea Ellis
Paul Etter
Karin Fangman
James Fitch
Laura Fruge
Ralph Garboushian
Sarah Garland
Richard Garrison
James Gehring
Diane Gemignani
Kirsten Gillibrand
Patricia Graboske
Patricia Granados
Carol Grigsby
Elizabeth Hannold
Sandra Harrelson
Carly Hawkins
Kathleen Hayden
Brittani Head
Scot G. Hickman
Jennie Hollister
Elizabeth Horst
George Hutchinson
Michelle Jiles
Heather Johnson
Fawn Johnson
Alison Kaufman
Gale D. Kaufmann
Wayne Kehoe
Jeanie Kelleher

Genevieve Kenney
Larry King
Karen Kitching
Gail and Don Kohn
Ann Korzeniewski
Diane Kresh
Michelle Krowl
Bayli Larson
Marsha Lea
Matthew Lee
Pat Leitner
Gail Levine
Patricia Lyall
Karen Lyon
Patricia Martin
Virginia McMullan
John McNamara
Maurice J. McNamee
Steve Mellor
Kate Meyer
Greg Michaels
Richard Mobley
Patricia Molumby
Mindy Moretti
Sally Moyer
Amy Muhlberg
jeanmarie Neal
Linda Neumann
Claudia Newbold
Randell Norton
Ernesto Nucup
Allison Parker
Lauryn Franzoni Pederson
Elizabeth Peralta-Reed
Kathryn Pettit
Sunny Petzinger
Donna Phelps
Dorothy Rogers
Karen Rugg

Emily Rupar
Constance Santarelli
Bryan Schell
Deidre Schexnayder
Rhonda Sincavage
Melanie Sloan
Kirsten Sloan
Robert I. Smith
Nathan Smith
Clifton S. Sorrell
Stephanie Spahlinger
Jennifer Squires
Dustin Stender
Barbara Stewart
Sidney Stolz
Daniel & Theresa Tangherlini
Kay Thomas
Jeanette Thompson
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Brandy White
Patricia Williams
Katie Wilson
Juliet Wurr

Donors

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DC Access, LLC

DC Front Runner Pride Run Foundation

DC Sons of the American Revolution

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Enigma Charitable Fund

Friends of the National Arboretum

Fulcrum Foundation

Grounds Management and Landscaping

Hacken-Maestri Charitable Fund

Haskell & Associates

Hiram-Takoma Lodge #10

Linares-Michaels Fund

Masonic and Eastern Star Home District of
Columbia

National Capital Bank

Pledgeling Foundation

Posner-Wallace Foundation

Rose Physical Therapy Services

The Annie E. Casey Foundation

The Capitol Hill Community Foundation

The Trowel Garden Club

TisBest Philanthropy

U.S. Daughters 1812 DC Society

Sponsor a Tree

Rachel Barreto-Edensword

Anne Brachman

Catherine Crockett

Jennifer Dumas

Katja Eichinger

Kim Place -Gateau

Heather Gleason

Sheridan Harvey

Laura Kumin

Vicki A Lancaster

Teresa Lavender

Tanya Lawson

Sharon Metcalf

Laura & Stewert Meyer

Augusta Molnar

Kristin Pearson

Carlos Quintana

Paige Reese

Jill Schreiber

Jessica Schuler

Kay Thomas

Larry West

Gifts in Honor Of

In Honor of Linda Sue Baughan Norton

Randell Norton

In Honor of Barbara Bradley

Frances Galindo

Christine Romero

In Honor of Susan Burgerman

Andrew Baxley

In Honor of RuthAnn Clark

Natalie Beckman

Paul Beddoe

Judith Bucci

Risa G. Griffin

LeeAnn Hart

Diane Kresh

Sally Larisch

Allison Parker

Bryan Schell

Sidney Stolz

Hilary Weckstein

Emily Weinstock

In Honor of Ann Marie & Will Collin & Mara

Collin Smith

In Honor of Christopher Dell

Kathleen Dell

In Honor of Sergio Esperdy

Michelle M Esperdy

In Honor of John R. Hancock

Samantha Collins

In Honor of Allyson Harkey

Leslie Payne

In Honor of HCC Holiday Market Team

Heather Gleason

In Honor of Mark Hudson

Julia Roberson

In Honor of K-9 Corp

Kate Meyer

Ernesto Nucup

In Honor of Kip the Border Collie!

Janet Crowder

In Honor of David Larimer

Emily Rugar

In Honor of Leonard Matlovich

Michael Bedwell

In Honor of Christopher McGowen

Kristi Barksdale

In Honor of Stacey McMorrow

Genevieve Kenney

In Honor of Sharon Metcalf

Hiram-Takoma Lodge #10

In Honor of Moustafa Mourad

Alison Cave

In Honor of All of the Neitzseys buried at
Congressional

Alice D. Neitzey

In Honor of Perry, Ann Marie, and Will

Vasia P

In Honor of Spaulding and Bielaski Families

Barbara J. Bielaski

In Honor of Peter Walls Cooper

Janet Crowder

In Honor of Asher James Lee Wilson

Carol Grigsby



In Thanks

Volunteers

In 2025, 685 volunteers contributed more than 3,000 hours assisting with guided tours, events, grounds care, greeting visitors and other activities that support our mission.

Gifts in Kind

These organizations and businesses provided products and services as in-kind donations.

Architect of the U.S. Capitol

Benjamin Brown French Lodge No. 15 FAAM

Casey Trees

Christ Church, Washington Parish

DC Beekeeper Alliance

DC Brau Brewing Company

Duffy's Irish Pub

Fulcrum Residential

Hand Picked Selections

Hiram-Takoma Lodge No. 10 FAAM

National Trust for Historic Preservation

WC Beverage

K9 Corps

Through their membership in our K9 Corps, over 800 households supported our mission through their dues, volunteer service and community spirit.

Special Thanks

The individuals and organizations made unique contribution toward our mission.

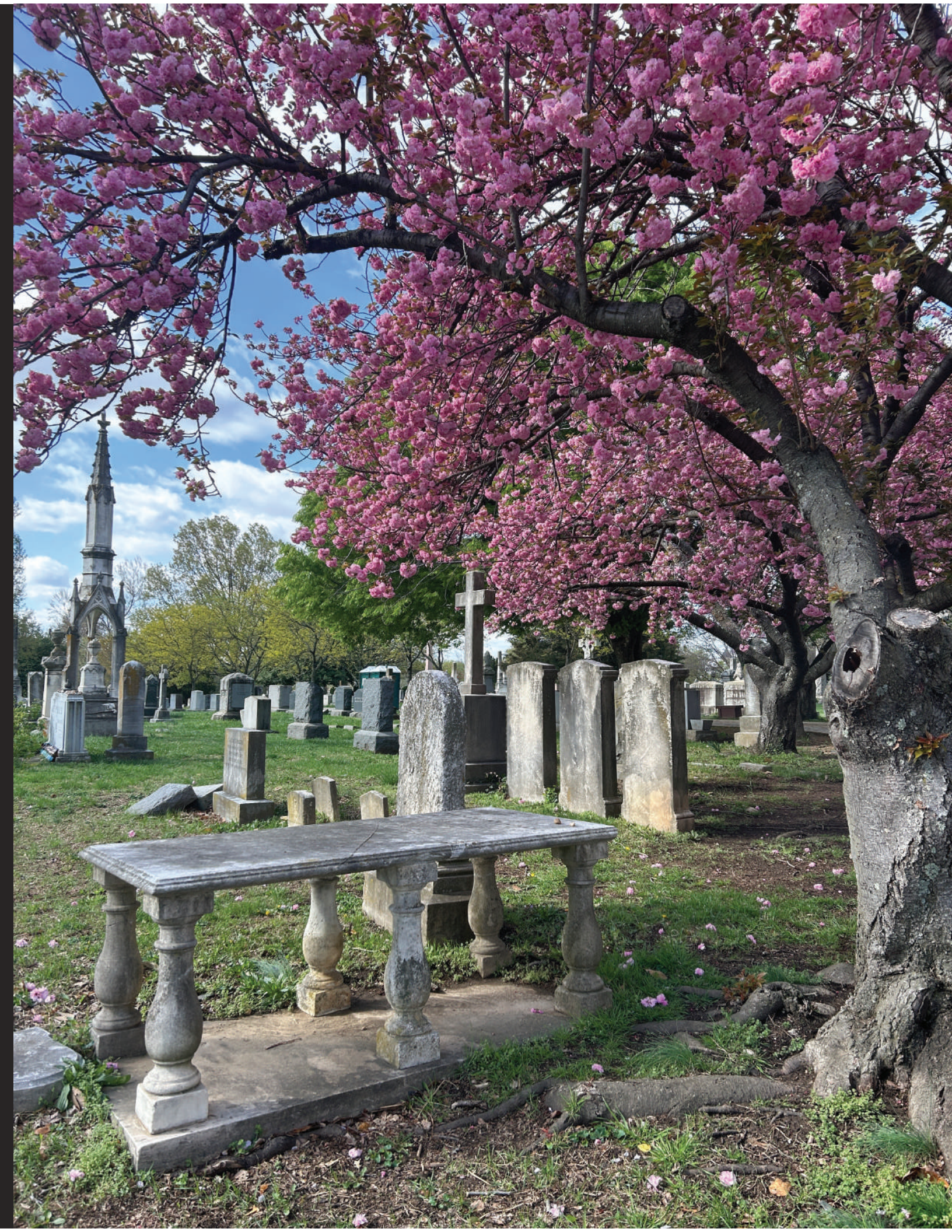
Bob Bartlett, Theatrical Generosity

Sharon Metcalf, Circle of Life and Arboretum Accreditation

District of Columbia National Guard, Remembrance Events

Photo Credits

Kitty Linton, Vincent Vassal, & Gabriella Welsh





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The Association for the Preservation of
Historic Congressional Cemetery
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