

HERITAGE GAZETTE

SUMMER 2022

ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF
HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

HCC OFFERS HAILS AND FAREWELLS

We are delighted to announce the addition of four new staff members to our team. Lily Buerkle replaces longtime Director of Site Sales and Funerals, Crystal Palmer, who remains in the non-profit world. Anthony “A.J.” Orlikoff was named the new Director of Public Engagement and Sarah La Rocca was chosen to be the new Marketing and Events Coordinator. The two replace and expand the functions of previous Vice President Sarah Kirspel, who

has taken a position with the DAR Museum to get back to her roots in hands-on education. Finally, Allison Stacy has joined the team as Conservation Assistant to Director of Conservation Margaret Canilang. You can also see our summer employee, Dylan, at the gatehouse as he aids Quentin in maintaining the integrity of the K9 Corps program as a temporary gate checker. You can read more about our newest permanent team members inside this issue of the *Heritage Gazette*. Welcome to the team!

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**Summer in Bloom at HCC,
Photo by John Shore**

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

My relationship with the Historic Congressional Cemetery began almost 12 years ago when my wife and I first moved to the neighborhood. Our new neighbors introduced us to the amenities of living in New Hill East. When they told me that one of the “amenities” was a nearby cemetery, I gave them an incredulous double take that they considered a cemetery an amenity. I thought “What’s next? A tour of the DC jail?” But it did not take long for me to understand what a treasure the Cemetery is, and not just for those of us that live in its proximity, but for the entire DMV, as there is no other place like it in the region.

During my first tour I tried to take it all in at once, which was an impossible task. With every visit, I noticed new headstones, details, and aspects of the Cemetery that I had not noticed before. This living monument of history is not only rich in those that are interred there, but those that make it what it is today: a community made up of site owners, family and friends with loved ones buried there, visitors, walkers, runners, the occasional goat herd, and of course, dogs.

I have also learned over time that the Cemetery is a resilient place. For those that know it well, they can vividly recall how far the Cemetery has come. What is now a well-kept and frequently visited place has been transformed from a place of neglect. It’s quite amazing to think how the Cemetery met that challenge. And then fast forward to 2020, and the Cemetery again had to meet a new challenge brought on by COVID-19. At that time, I was serving on the K-9 Corps Committee, and we knew that the Cemetery would be a place of refuge as we all navigated the uncertainty of COVID-19. And again, without fail, the K-9 Corps Committee, the Board, and the Cemetery staff met that challenge with a measured reopening that gave people a place to meet, to reunite with family and friends, and to get a breath of fresh air while also providing some safeguards so that all who entered felt welcome and safe.

As we emerge from this pandemic (we are emerging, right?), the Cemetery looks forward to continuing some of its well-known events like Soul Strolls, Plot Twist – Yoga in the Cemetery, Cinematery, Dead Man’s Run 5k (one of the flattest and fastest courses in DC!), and many others. The Cemetery, under the leadership of Jaclyn Spainhour, is also looking to add to its list of events and grow in different directions.

The Cemetery is fortunate to have Jaclyn as its new president. In the short time we have worked together, she has reinforced my confidence that she is the right person for the job and that she will help lead the Cemetery to new heights.



Richard Greene, IV



THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION
OF HISTORIC CONGRESSIONAL CEMETERY

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The Association for the Preservation of
Historic Congressional Cemetery is a
nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. All
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permitted by federal tax laws. Funding for the
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Congressional Cemetery is provided in part
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Endowment, which was created with
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Congress and administered by the
National Trust for Historic Preservation.

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AT CONGRESSIONAL, WE ARE RECALIBRATING.

Decades ago, when the grass was overgrown and few people dared to walk amongst our stones, our neighbors helped to see us through the darkest of times. We had hit the proverbial rock bottom. If you have followed us for any length of time, you know the story. It begins with being listed as an endangered historic site, takes a turn upwards with congressional appropriations, and continues to this day with a dedicated board and an innovative roster of programs. The end, thankfully, is nowhere in sight.

Somewhere along this journey, though, we let the momentum of our success dictate our path forward. We followed these paths as they meandered into uncharted territory- most of which has helped us to grow into the thriving institution we are today. After all, who would we be without Soul Strolls, and the K9 Corps, and our Dozen Decent Docents? We wouldn't be an inclusive, interactive, innovative historic site. We wouldn't be Congressional Cemetery.

As senior leadership, it is my goal to serve every part of the cemetery and its constituents. I am proud of how we engage with the community through our programs and events. I believe that everyone belongs at Congressional. I am delighted by the smiling faces I see in our cemetery every day. We are doing big things together. You make that possible.

Yet, I can't help but feel disheartened when I mention my role here in the community and they ask me if I like working at the dog park. Or when someone of a minority group expresses surprise that we bury people of all colors, backgrounds, faiths, and sexual orientations. Worst of all, when someone says they acquired interment space elsewhere because they did not know

we have plots available for purchase. These comments break my heart.

But they also tell me there's room for growth in our story. We need to do a better job as an institution to balance the stories we tell and the values we convey. We can have a

thriving K9 Corps program and still offer educational tours to the public. We can support our preservation efforts while having a glass of wine at Soul Strolls. Most important of all, we can provide a place of respite for the grieving and respect for the deceased alongside the centuries of history in our hallowed grounds.

All it will take to get there is a little recalibrating. Some time to reflect, to assess, and to create the balance we need to move forward to serve all our constituents. I am looking forward to more authentically living our tagline, "At Congressional Cemetery, You Belong." You are the missing piece in helping us reshape this public narrative. Thank you for being our voice in the community. I look forward to our partnership in supporting this beautiful place for years to come.

Yours in service,

Jaclyn Spainhour
President



AROUND THE GATEHOUSE

MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS!



Emily van Loon,
Treasurer

Emily van Loon, our new treasurer, was invited to volunteer for HCC, by David Glaser, a long-term friend and business associate. She has lived in Takoma Park since 1983 after moving from New Orleans with her husband Thom Wolf. Cemeteries have great historical significance in New Orleans and HCC is an

extension of the cultural appreciation of them Thom and Emily gained while in New Orleans. They have two adult sons who now both live in the San Francisco Bay area. Emily worked for many years as the CFO for So Others Might Eat (SOME, Inc) and as CFO for The Association of Public and Land grant Universities. Thom, Emily's husband, is a professional photographer and videographer and has documented inaugurations, theater and musical performances, museum exhibits, and interviewed many individuals that have played a prominent role in politics and the life of this city. They both are avid readers of history and participated prior to Emily joining the board, in several HCC events. Nola the 10-pound wonder dog keeps everyone active and happy. Emily is thrilled to add her financial expertise to the work of the cemetery.



Jamie McGinnis

Jamie McGinnis joined the board in April 2022. Jamie is an asset management attorney at Ropes & Gray LLP in Washington, DC, having previously served as the lead securities counsel at the U.S. House Committee on Financial Services as well as at the Securities and Exchange Commission. He

lives with his wife in the Navy Yard neighborhood and is a member of the congregation at Christ Church on Capitol Hill. In his free time, he enjoys watching Notre Dame football and running.



Stephanie Lipscomb

Stephanie Lipscomb works at National Capital Bank as a Vice President, Branch Manager with over 40 years of community banking experience in Washington, DC. She is a native Washingtonian currently residing in Bowie, Maryland with her family.

Stephanie is a mother of three and a civil rights activist.

Stephanie is very engaged in the community and has served on many local boards, including Historic Dupont Main streets, National Congress of Black Women, Open Arms Housing, and the High Tea Society. In her spare time Stephanie is a genealogist and will serve as scorekeeper for her son's baseball team.

MEET THE NEW STAFF MEMBERS!



Lily Buerkle

Lily Buerkle was once tasked with writing her own funeral as a freshman in college many years ago and took the assignment a little too far. By the end of it, she had interviewed every mortician in the small South Georgia town and created her dream funeral, which is now lost on a floppy disk

somewhere. She knows it included a gospel choir singing graveside and being buried in the '73 Cadillac she was driving at the time. Lily ignored signs from the universe for a good 20 years (a Meyer-Briggs style test said that Funeral Director would be the perfect career for her, and she scoffed at the results.) Somewhere after having her two girls (now 9 and 11) and her last fundraising gig (Lily prefers death to fundraising), she started to listen. Lily has been in funeral service for 7 years now and she can't imagine doing anything else. She is a licensed mortician in DC, Maryland, and Virginia and is absolutely thrilled to be the new Director

AROUND THE GATEHOUSE

of Site Sales and Funerals at her hands-down favorite cemetery in town. Lily hopes to bring the focus back on death at this almost-too-fun cemetery. She loves doing community engagement through death education, hanging with her husband, Eric, and alley-cat, Sweetie, jogging in Rock Creek Park, and playing Would-You-Rather with her girls, Rose and Mae.



Allison Stacey

Allison Stacy, Conservation Assistant, was raised in Wheaton, Maryland. Growing up on the Metro Red Line, Allie is passionate about all things DC, dedicating her career to preserving the history of this city. She attended Mercyhurst University for her undergraduate degree in Public

History. Along the way, she acquired her master's degree in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester, UK. And if that was not enough school, she recently received a Graduate Certificate for Cultural Heritage Resource Management from the University of Maryland—College Park. Allison's career began as an Assistant Program Manager at George Washington's Mount Vernon. There she volunteered at any opportunity to go work with Historic Preservation. Following, she has held positions as an Artifact Specialist for the Ottery Group Archaeology Firm and as an Archivist for the National Park Service. Her research and work are primarily focused on 18th-19th-century Mid-Atlantic artifacts. This path has led her to an exciting career with Historic Congressional Cemetery! Outside of work and research, Allie enjoys reading (mainly Tolkien or Austen), supporting the Nationals, and watching her favorite ballets at the Kennedy Center.



Sarah La Rocca

Sarah La Rocca is an event manager and arts administrator from New York City. She has had roles in program development and special events with several arts organizations. She earned a BFA from Virginia Commonwealth University and was a National Endowment for the Humanities grant recipient to study Victorian art in London. She has also attended the Fashion Institute of Technology and the London College of Fashion. Sarah is passionate about the arts, history, and nature. She is honored to join the staff at the Historic Congressional Cemetery.



Anthony "A.J." Orlikoff

Anthony "A.J." Orlikoff is the new Director of Public Engagement. A.J. is a dedicated and passionate historian, educator, and writer. After graduating with a Bachelor's and Master's in History from Old Dominion University, A.J. worked at Hampton Roads Naval Museum as an Educator and at the National Museum of the United States Army as an Education Specialist- Lead before joining the staff at Congressional Cemetery. He is the author of "The Navy's City: Norfolk's Military History" in *A History Lover's Guide to Norfolk* and is a contributor to *Washington History Magazine*. He is extremely passionate and enthusiastic about all things history and is always eager to share the amazing stories of the past. He specializes in American military history, with a particular focus on the American Civil War and World War II. He is beyond excited to help share the rich and intriguing history of the cemetery's interred residents with the public. In his personal life, A.J. enjoys reading, sports, cups of black coffee, and is an avid Disc Golf player. He lives in Centreville, Virginia with his wife Raven and his cat Reina.

You may have noticed the cemetery’s vibrant “Dangerous Headstone” signs. Although many of these marked memorials look secure, a gentle touch of a finger can send them rocking. During an assessment of every stone in the cemetery to determine a rough cost estimate to repair the entire cemetery, Margaret Canilang, Director of Conservation, did a visual assessment and applied a small amount of pressure to the surface of the stone. It soon became apparent that in addition to a rough cost estimate, this survey was also going to result in a list of headstones that posed an immediate danger to themselves and visitors.



Sign marking a memorial slated for repair this summer

The total repair cost estimate for the cemetery came in at \$11,605,000 to clean, repair foundations, reset memorials, and conserve high-profile monuments and mausoleums. An alarming number of unstable memorials had to be lowered to the ground or fell over with a light touch during the process, and 115 gravestones were deemed extremely dangerous but too delicate or heavy to lower without a lifting device.

While the yellow signs mark our most unsafe stones, this should not confuse the fact that all memorials pose a safety risk due to the sheer weight of marble and granite. These materials range from 150 to 180 pounds per cubic feet, and memorials should never be leaned against, climbed on, or played around with in the cemetery.

Our budget allows for 23 of those stones labeled “Priority 1” to be completely repaired and the remaining stones will be set down gently using a gantry. To tackle this great undertaking of securing an additional 115 stones in one summer, you’ll see a familiar face, Devlin McDonald, who has done countless memorial and mausoleum repairs throughout the cemetery over the past 12 years. And you’ll also see a new face—our new part-time Conservation Assistant, Allison Stacy. You can read her bio in the “Around the Gatehouse” section of this edition of the gazette.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT UPDATES

This year has been a productive one for Congressional Cemetery in terms of Eagle Scout Projects. In total, six scouts have been active at the cemetery beautifying the grounds, providing interpretation, and improving accessibility for elderly and disabled canine visitors.

In March, Leighton Brown finished the project he started in fall 2021 by researching and placing four interpretive signs designed to last for 10 – 15 years in the oldest section of the cemetery.

Justin Scofield planted a low-maintenance garden of

native plants around the chapel that will appeal to pollinators and be dog-tolerant.

To improve the accessibility and appearance of the East End area, Quentin Colón Roosevelt led a group to clear out invasive plants, reorganize building materials, and haul debris off the grounds.

Graysen Brady took the weed-ridden Kingdom of Animals pet cemetery and turned it into a lush oasis with grass, roses, pencil evergreens, clematis, ferns, and more.

The main gate area received a much-needed makeover from Frederick Robb as he extended the front garden to the pedestrian entrance, creating a more welcoming entry.



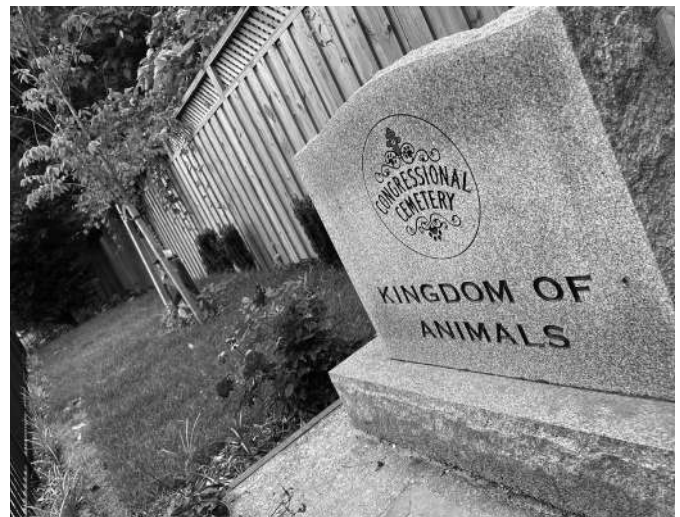
Front Entrance Garden

This summer, Tyler Kenney will be replacing the pond liner and installing a ramp to accommodate elderly and disabled pups wishing to access the Doggie Day Spa.

We are so thankful to our Eagle Scout partners! If you are interested in a project, please contact Director of Conservation, Margaret Canilang, at mcanilang@congressionalcemetery.org.



Signage designed by Leighton Brown for Ann Sprigg.



Kingdom of Animals Beautification

LINCOLN ASSASSINATION AND CONGRESSIONAL'S RESIDENTS

BY BOB HOFFMAN

Did you know Congressional Cemetery has many connections to the Lincoln Assassination?

There are more than 16,000 books written about President Abraham Lincoln. The interest in the life and death of the United States' 16th president has spanned generations and continues to inspire further research and conversation. On April 14, 2022, Congressional Cemetery organized a tour of the cemetery grounds that focused exclusively on the interred residents who engaged in the events surrounding the assassination. This article was adapted for print from that tour which occurred on the 157th anniversary of the assassination at Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865.

To begin, let's start with a brief history.

John Wilkes Booth coordinated with a group of conspirators to assassinate President Lincoln (as well as Vice President Johnson and Secretary of State Seward). On the evening of April 14, just 5 days after

Confederate general Robert E. Lee had surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant, Abraham and Mary Lincoln went to Ford's Theatre. Famous actor John Wilkes Booth entered the Presidential box at about 10:15 pm and shot Lincoln in the back of the head at close range. Lincoln was taken to the Peterson Boarding House across the street from Ford's Theatre where he died the next morning. After shooting Lincoln, Booth jumped on the stage and escaped out of the back of the theater and rode away on his horse. Booth escaped into the Maryland countryside and was able to elude authorities for 12 days until he was shot to death by pursuing Army troops. There was a military trial held for 8 conspirators who had assisted Booth on the assassination plot—following the trial four of them were imprisoned, and four of them were executed by hanging.

A few of these historical figures now reside at Congressional Cemetery and you can visit them today. This article will highlight two: Charles Forbes and Davey Herold.

Charles Forbes was the personal attendant, messenger, and valet to President Abraham Lincoln from 1861-1865. He occasionally watched out for Tad Lincoln, the president's young son. He was on the presidential carriage on the night of April 14, 1865, acting as a messenger and checking on the presidential party during the evening when they attended a play at Ford's Theatre. He and guard John Parker went to a nearby bar to have drink during the intermission of the play.

Unfortunately, Detective John Parker, who was supposed to be guarding Lincoln, was not present at



Bob Hoffman Greets Visitors

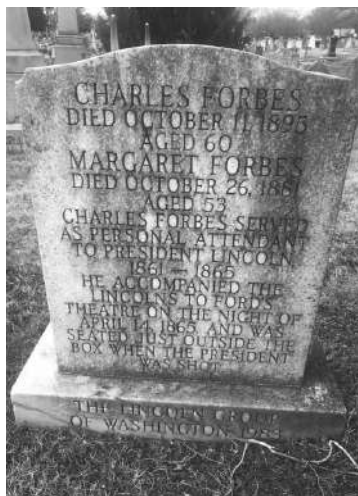


Charles Forbes

the time when John Wilkes Booth neared the Presidential box. Booth instead approached Forbes who was seated outside of Lincoln's box, gave him his calling card, and Forbes unwittingly allowed Booth to enter the door to the private box. A few minutes later, Booth accomplished his goal and Lincoln was mortally wounded.

Although he had not been assigned to formally "guard" Lincoln, Forbes felt guilty his whole life for allowing Booth to enter the box. Mrs. Lincoln was fond of Forbes and bore him no ill will for the evening's events, and later presented him with the suit of clothes that Lincoln wore that night. He remained a loyal friend.

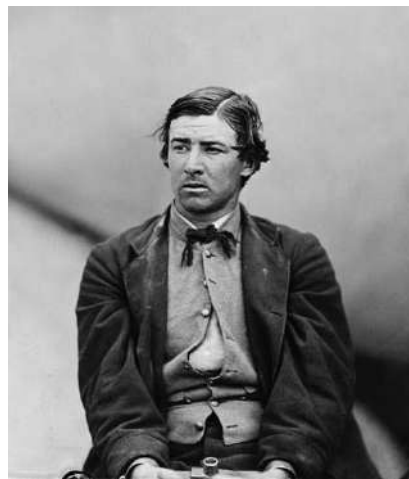
Forbes died in 1895 and remains a mysterious figure in the assassination. He never gave a witness statement, nor did he ever leave a written or verbal account of the events of that evening. He was buried in an unmarked grave in Congressional



Grave of Charles Forbes

Cemetery until 1984 when The Lincoln Group, a historical society, placed a marker on his grave—as seen in the photo below.

After Booth shot Lincoln, he avoided capture at Ford's Theatre and left on horseback. This initiated the largest manhunt in U.S. History, a 12-day search for the fugitive through rural Virginia and Maryland. David "Davey" Herold was with Booth and he helped him elude capture. He was an avid hunter who's knowledge of the local area proved valuable to the two



Davey Herold

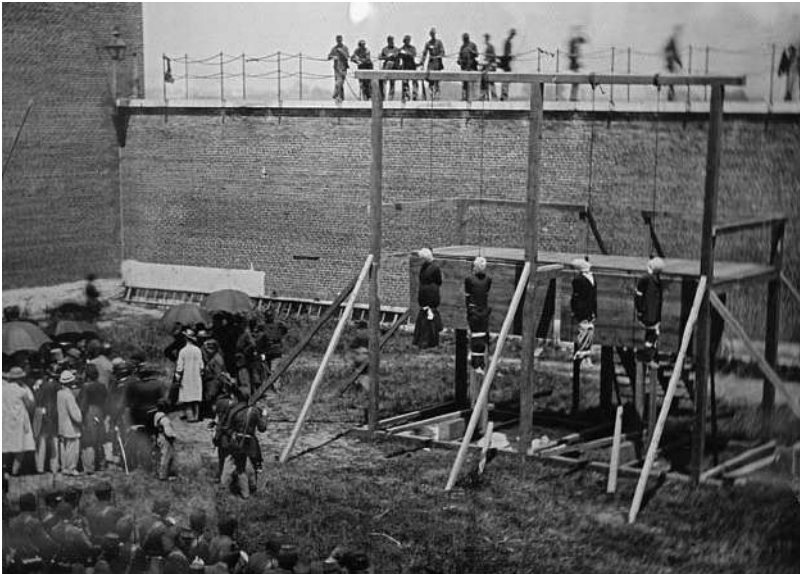
conspirators.

Herold met up with Booth a few miles outside of Washington, D.C. They proceeded to Surrattsville, Maryland (now Clinton, Maryland) where they picked up weapons that co-conspirator Mary

Surratt had left earlier for them at her property. They then proceeded to the home of Dr. Samuel Mudd who set Booth's leg, which the assassin had injured when he jumped to the stage at Ford's Theatre.

After evading authorities for 12 days, Booth and Herold were eventually found at a Virginia tobacco farm by Army soldiers on April 26, 1865. The conspirators hid in a barn and their pursuers set it afire. Herold promptly surrendered, but Booth refused to lay down his arms and was shot by a soldier through a crack in the barn wall. He died a few hours later.

Herold was tried before a military tribunal. He was convicted and sentenced to death by hanging. On July 7, 1865, Herold, along with other conspirators, was executed. The fall from the gallows did not break his neck; he struggled for nearly five minutes, slowly strangling to death. Initially he was buried next to the gal-



Execution of David Herold, along with co-conspirators Mary Surratt, Lewis Powell, and George Atzerodt on July 7, 1865, at Fort McNair in Washington, D.C.

lows courtyard at the Washington Arsenal (now Fort McNair) with three other co-conspirators.

With permission from President Andrew Johnson, with the condition that no marking of any kind be erected on the grave, the Herold family retrieved Davey’s remains on February 15, 1869. Herold’s




Grave of Davey Herold

mother and sisters interred his remains at Congressional Cemetery in an unmarked grave next to the grave of his father, Adam. Herold’s grave in Congressional Cemetery is marked only by the tombstone of his sister, buried with him.

Thus ends the history of Forbes and Herold. There are many others connected to this monumental event that are interred at Congressional Cemetery, and who can be viewed on the Assassination Tour. These include:

- Joseph Alexander—Undertaker for Lincoln
- George Arth —Member of the Marine Band who played in the orchestra at Ford’s theater where he witnessed the assassination
- Mathew Brady—“Father of American Photojournalism”, and famous Civil War photographer. He was asked to photograph the aftermath of the assassination (the crime scene) at Ford’s theater. He had previously photographed Lincoln in his studio, and created the image used in production for the \$5 bill.
- John Buckingham—doorkeeper at Ford’s theater when Lincoln’s arrived
- Henry Cattell—Embalmer for Lincoln who accompanied the funeral train on the 20 day journey back to Springfield
- John Clarvoe —A detective in the Washington Metropolitan Police Department and first to investigate the Surratt boardinghouse for clues about the conspirators on the night of the assassination
- Benjamin French—Commissioner of Public Building in Washington and in charge of Lincoln’s funeral in Washington
- Dr. James Hall—One of the physicians to examine and attend to Lincoln at Peterson Boarding House
- Emerick Hansell—Messenger at the home of Secretary of State Seward who received a knife wound from an escaping conspirator
- Frank Munroe—Captain of the Guard in charge of some of the prisoners/conspirators held in custody at the Navy Yard before being sent to Arsenal Penitentiary to await trial
- James Pumphrey—Rented the horse to Booth that was used on the day of the assassination and during the escape

- Frank Sands—Undertaker who constructed the coffin for the President to be removed from Peterson house. He accompanied the remains on the journey back to Springfield
- James St. Clair—Usher at Ford’s Theatre on night of the assassination
- Joseph Shelton—Washington police officer who helped carry Lincoln from Ford’s Theatre into Peterson House
- Peter Taltuval—Owner of the Star Saloon next door to Ford’s Theatre. Served drinks to John Wilkes Booth before he entered the theater
- William Wood—Superintendent of the Old Capital Prison where Mary Surratt and Dr. Samuel Mudd were confined until being moved to the Arsenal Penitentiary awaiting trial
- Henry Worthington—last surviving Lincoln pall-bearer and elected as the first congressman from Nevada

In closing, there are so many things that make Congressional Cemetery a truly unique landmark. Impressively, and uniquely, Congressional Cemetery has more “resident connections” to the Lincoln Assassination than any other cemetery in the world. Lincoln Assassination tours will continue to be offered at Congressional Cemetery, and we hope you will attend. 

Information for your estate planning, bequest, stock gift, endowment match, or donation:

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Telephone: 202-539-0543

Tax ID Number: 52-1071828

Please contact us for wire instruction or banking information

LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

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The Board of Directors for the Cemetery also has some new members. We welcome Stephanie Lipscomb, Jamie McGinnis, and Emily van Loon (incoming treasurer) to the Board of Directors. I look forward to working with them as the Board looks to support Jaclyn and the rest of the Cemetery staff, as well as plan strategically for the years to come. As we add new board members, we also are saying “good-bye and thank you” to those that are rolling off. I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to Joel Samuel (outgoing Board chair), Mark Adelson (treasurer), Shawn Freeman (secretary), David Glaser, and David Jones for their years of devoted service and their continued support. They have each offered their institutional knowledge as a resource going forward, and for that I am thankful. If you happen to see them in the Cemetery or around town, please take a moment to thank them for their service.

And finally, as the new board chair I am excited about the possibilities that are on the Cemetery’s horizon. Some of those include evaluating the K9 Corps Program to figure out areas of improvement, infrastructure projects that are in keeping with our mission “to preserve, promote and protect” the Cemetery (such as fixing the fallen headstones), expanding the Cemetery’s role within the community with additional programming, strengthening the Cemetery’s financial health, and continuing with the daily business of being an active burial ground.

Whether you walk in the Cemetery, are a volunteer, or a member of the K9 Corps Program, I want you to know that the Board of Directors is appreciative of your continued support. You have helped make the Cemetery what it is today.

—Richard Greene, IV,
Chairperson of the HCC Board

Yes!

I want to help preserve and restore Congressional Cemetery with a tax deductible donation.

\$25 \$50 \$75 \$100 \$250 Other _____

Special donation for the Endowment:

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Please mail with your donation to the return address on the mailing panel or use the envelope inside this newsletter.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Check the Event page on the website for details!

July 1	Cinematery-Galaxy Quest
July 12	Tombs and Tomes Book Club
August 5	Cinematery: <i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i>
September 2	Cinematery: <i>Space Balls</i>
September 13	Tombs and Tomes Book Club
September 17	Mathew Brady Memorial Dedication
September 20	Death Cafe
October 14 & 15	Soul Strolls: Twilight Tours
October 21 & 22	Soul Strolls: Twilight Tours
October 23	The American Chestnut Festival
October 28	Dead Man's Run 5k
October 29	Book Signing, <i>DC Scavenger</i> , with author JoAnn Hill
November 6	John Philip Sousa Birthday Celebration
November 8	Tombs and Tomes Book Club

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for presidents and residents alike
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