



EVERY VETERAN REMEMBERED

BY TEDD COCKER, FHRC VICE PRESIDENT

VOLUNTEER PROJECT

November 14
9am – Noon

Prepare for Holiday Visitors

- Fill groundhog holes with dirt
- Clean up trash, branches, decorations, Market St. sidewalks and bus stop

Sign in and get supplies at the Mausoleum

Snacks & beverages provided

Community Service Certificates available

FOOD DRIVE COLLECTION

FHRC collects food items which are donated to a local food cupboard at the end of the day. Items to share: canned soup, peanut butter, tuna, beans, cereal and pasta.

When Friends of Historic Riverview Cemetery assumed control of the cemetery on January 30, 2009, we set a number of goals. Among them was the desire to identify and document all of the veterans interred at Riverview – a daunting task, even under the best of circumstances.

Using a list provided by VFW Post 2907 as our base line, we began by comparing the names on their list with the cemetery's burial database. This list, and accompanying hand-drawn maps, were used by the VFW Post members and local Cub Scouts to place an American flag on each veteran's grave for Memorial Day. We continue that practice to this date.

in peacetime, but have participated in the Civil War, the Indian Wars, the Spanish-American War, World Wars I and II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. And some of our veterans participated in more than one of those conflicts. One veteran in particular, LTC George I. Sylvester, participated in World War II, Korea, and Vietnam.

A complete list of the veterans interred at Riverview is available on our website: www.riverviewcem.com. Memorial pages for each of these veterans were also created on Find A Grave: www.findagrave.com. Our continuing goal is to obtain a copy

of the death certificate of each of these veterans, as well as a copy of either their death notice or obituary. Death notices or obituaries are imbedded in the veteran's Find A Grave memorial page.

One of the many challenges encountered during the identification process is that many of our veterans' graves are not marked with any type of memorial marker. We were in the process of ordering government-furnished markers for the graves of Civil War veterans, which required documenting each veteran's military service and sending a request to the Office of Veterans Affairs. We received and installed grave markers for eleven Civil War veterans. But, in 2014 the government changed the process. At present, only a family member (next of kin) can request a

grave marker. With the help of some distant family members, we were able to order, receive and install a few more.

Although we have made some great inroads, we still have a long way to go. We know there are many more veterans buried at Riverview that still need to be recognized. Through our continued research, and with the help of families and friends, we are confident that we will ultimately achieve our goal of recognizing all veterans whose final resting place is historic Riverview Cemetery.



Reading the stones: Grave markers that illustrate the challenges faced while trying to locate and document all of the veterans interred in Riverview Cemetery—a task that required hundreds of hours.

To ensure that we were as thorough as possible in our quest to identify ALL of the veterans buried at Riverview, it was necessary to examine every grave marker in the cemetery. While government-furnished markers, both upright and flat, are relatively easy to identify and document, we had to examine every *non-government marker* as well because military service information is often engraved there. A real challenge, especially with many of the older marble grave markers, was that they had sunken deep into the ground or were no longer legible. This process involved many walkthroughs of the entire cemetery.

Other sources of information came from family members notifying us that one or more of their relatives were not included in our database. Death certificates, obituaries and newspaper articles were researched. Dr. Lee Anderson's book, *Riverview Cemetery: Reading the Stones, A collection of Memories from the First State* also provided valuable information.

Our efforts thus far have been fruitful: the number of veterans identified total 948 – a significant increase from the original VFW list of 554. These men and women have not only served

The mission of Friends of Historic Riverview Cemetery is to operate and maintain Wilmington's most culturally diverse, non-profit, public cemetery, and to support its restoration and preservation.

Riverview Cemetery • 3300 North Market Street • Wilmington, Delaware • (302) 762-4705



Mailing Address:
Friends of Historic
Riverview Cemetery
P.O. Box 2173
Wilmington, Delaware 19899

www.riverviewcem.com

FROM *the* BOARD

In 2009
Delaware Governor
Jack Markell and
Lieutenant Governor
Matthew Denn
issued a proclamation to make
the first week of November

GRIEF AWARENESS WEEK

"We urge all communities during this week to remember and support those who have experienced a significant death in their lives; and to participate in community activities and educational events to increase their own knowledge of the grief process so that neighborhoods, faith communities and workplaces can create a more supportive environment for those in grief."

For more information about statewide resources, visit Delaware Grief Consortium www.degac.org



ABCares returned to Riverview Cemetery and joined FHRC volunteers for our Saturday project in October. They raised sunken veteran markers and cleared debris from the Todd's Lane fence.



Bank of America Delaware Volunteers (Military Support Assistance Group) donated a Friday afternoon in October. They raised sunken veteran markers on the Northwest side of the cemetery and cleared debris from the fence along 31st street.

Both groups combined raised 19 military markers. Thank you to ABCares and Bank of America Delaware Volunteers for your service to those who served our country!



Lee Anderson
President



Tedd Cocker
Vice President



Mary King
Secretary



Kate Wilhere
Treasurer



Debbie Dodd
Member-at-Large

Burials

The Board of Directors assisted with 2 burials and a private cremation burial in October. We appreciate the good working relationship with the Spicer-Millikin Funeral Home and Beeson Funeral Home of Newark.

Cremation

Families who choose cremation at the time of death may select a cemetery at a later time. We are available to assist you with the placement of your loved one's remains at Riverview Cemetery. Four family-related cremains may be placed in a single gravesite (a new grave or a grave belonging to your relative).

Call 302-762-4705 to discuss this affordable option.



SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 14TH
6 PM

An Evening of Giving Thanks

The Resurrection Center Church in Wilmington Delaware presents "An Evening of Giving Thanks" — a Cantata conducted by Dion LeMon featuring: Kaneisha "NeeCee" Trott, Caleb Collins, The Resurrection Center Cathedral Choir, Dancers, Mime Artists and more. The Resurrection Center is located next to Riverview Cemetery at 3301 N. Market Street, Wilmington, DE 19802.

ADMISSION FREE WITH A CANNED GOODS DONATION. FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.TRLCLIVE.ORG

FHRC is thankful for our partnership with The Resurrection Center.

PROJECTS *of* NOTE

Capital Campaign Updates

There is still time to make your tax deductible contribution to our Capital Campaign so we can reach the 50k Longwood Foundation Match. Any size contribution can help us reach our goal!

Thank you to our October contributors:

Anne & Rand Coleman	\$300 To support FHRC
Sharpe Communications	\$200 In appreciation of FHRC
Friends of Wilmington Parks, Inc.	\$1628 (Delaware: A Brew Story Event)

Bosco's Friends Helping Friends Fundraiser for Non-Profits

We sold 100 tickets to Bosco's October event and made \$500 to add to the Capital Campaign!

Holiday Wreath Fundraiser

Order now and support our Capital Campaign. Bank of America volunteers handcraft the 18" evergreen wreaths and adorn them with ribbons and pinecones. FHRC volunteers will place wreaths on gravesites on December 12th

for those unable to do so. Wreaths are \$25.00. Visit www.riverviewcem.com to print your order form and reserve your wreath early to brighten the holiday!



Farewell and Happy Retirement

to John and Susan Kerns,
owners of Kerns Brothers Tree Service

Welcome and Thank You

to David Balint, district manager for A Davey Tree Company.

Kerns Brothers has been our pro-bono partner since 2008 and A Davey Tree Company will continue the tradition of community service to Riverview Cemetery. Look for more information in future newsletters.



Visit our website: www.riverviewcem.com