

Commemorating 93 Years of Service HMG Newsletter



SPRING 2023

Presented by Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery, a Perpetual Care Cemetery
Owned and Operated by Highland Perpetual Maintenance Society, Inc.

Your Proxy Card

is **NOT**
junk
mail!



Included with this mailing is a proxy postcard which is postage-paid. This card is sent to each lot owner and requires **one signature per person named on the card**. The proxy card assigns your voting authority (1/4 of one vote per space owned) to the board of directors who will vote on your behalf in matters of business throughout the year.

Your vote (by signing and returning this card) **is imperative to the continued operation of HMG!** We are required by law to receive a quorum of votes each year, so your vote is essential in helping achieve the quorum and allowing us to continue to give the service you have come to expect from our board and staff.

Please mail or return the card promptly to the cemetery. We will accept proxy cards with a postmark no later than April 15, 2023. Please

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Lot Owners Invited to Annual Meeting Scheduled Tuesday, May 9, 2023

Highland Perpetual Maintenance Society, Inc., ("Society"), owner and operator of Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery ("HMG"), announces the annual meeting of the Society to occur on Tuesday, May 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m. on the grounds of Highland Memory Gardens.

What exactly is the annual meeting and what does it mean to you?

HMG is a lot-owner-owned business - if you have purchased property at HMG, you are a LOT OWNER - you have

a stake in this business. The Society is governed by a nine-member volunteer board of directors who, like you, are property owners and serve for three-year terms. The annual meeting is a time when the board and lot owners come together to review what has happened in the previous year and look toward the future to make sure HMG continues to **"provide a sanctuary where lives are commemorated, memories are recalled, and dedicated to be a sustaining source of comfort to the living."**

Memorial Day Celebration

Our annual Memorial Day Celebration will take on a new look this year. Due to work being done on our Tower of Memories, the location for this year's celebration has changed to the southwest corner of the cemetery, known as Atonement Garden. Bring your lawn chairs and join us as we honor our veterans.

This service is jointly sponsored by the Highland Park American Legion Post 374 and Highland Memory Gardens. The ceremony includes the reading of the names of veterans buried in Highland Memory Gardens since Memorial Day, 2022.

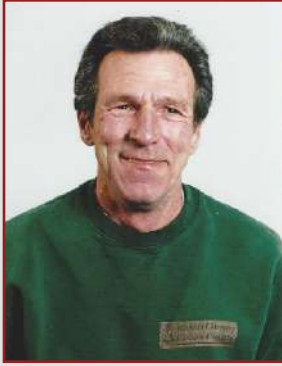
This year's program will begin with the playing of bagpipes followed by an honor guard from the Iowa Patriot Guard Riders, our traditional presentation of colors and a trumpeter. Refreshments follow the service.

In case of inclement weather, we will notify you via our email listing, WHO Radio, KCCI TV and WHO TV regarding an alternate location.



Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery

In Sorrow, We Say Goodbye



It is with great sadness that we, as a Board and staff, inform you that longtime Grounds Superintendent Jerry Sheeks passed away on February 11, 2023, following a brief illness - completing an extraordinary career at HMG.

If you have been to Highland

Memory Gardens Cemetery for any of the 14,500+ graveside services held here between 1961 and 2016, you would likely have been served by this thoughtful, caring man.

Jerry began his work at Highland Memory Gardens in April 1961 as a thirteen-year-old, working alongside his father, Floyd Sheeks. Jerry learned from his dad to take pride in your work; to treat everyone - whether living or deceased - with respect and dignity; and to always be ready to lend a helping hand. Jerry exemplified those characteristics wherever he went for over sixty years.



Although he "officially" retired on June 30, 2016, handing the reigns of Ground Superintendent to his successor, Luke Berry, he continued to work part-time as a seasonal employee assisting in mowing, snow-plowing and special



projects. Jerry could be seen mowing the cemetery grounds almost daily up until late fall of 2022, often arriving long before the other staff members to care for the grounds he loved.

Making Highland Memory Gardens the beautiful place that it is has been a Sheeks family tradition. Not only has Jerry and his father, Floyd, worked at HMG, but eleven other members of the Sheeks family have invested portions of their lives to the Gardens.

Jerry is survived by his wife, son, daughter and their spouses, four grandchildren, one great-grandson and one brother.

Although Jerry has not always been here on a daily basis for the past few years, HMG will never be the same without his gentle spirit and caring ways. Jerry will be greatly missed!

You Proxy Card is NOT Junk Mail cont. from page 1

help us by signing and returning your card as soon as possible.

All lot owners are invited and encouraged to attend the annual meeting. If you plan to attend, please call or note it on your proxy card so we may have adequate seating.

Directors currently serving, with their beginning year of service:

- Roger Hill, President (1993-1998; 2018)
- Kirk Hartung, Vice President (2013)
- Mark Adams, Secretary (1986)
- Robert Myers, Treasurer (2021)
- Steve Beaver (2020)
- Tiffany Clouse (2023)
- Nancy Lundstrom (1990)
- Ann Thye (2007)
- Lavona Webb (1998)

Iowa Living Magazine

Do you live in Altoona, Ankeny, Bondurant, Johnston, North Polk or Urbandale? Do you read the "Iowa Living Magazine" which is delivered to your mailbox each month? If so, you will notice HMG has an advertisement and article appearing in each edition which encourages and informs you of things needed for your future funeral/burial needs. This article is written by our Family Services Representative, Jan Shawver. Check it out!

Flowers

A variety of silk floral bouquets for grave placement during the late spring and summer decorating season are now available. A color flyer of our selections and prices is available by mail, email or on the events page of our website. Flower orders are due by April 7, 2023 and will be placed before Mother's Day, May 12, 2023. Beginning May 1st, flowers will be available in the cemetery office on a cash-and-carry basis only.



Parade of Flags

As you wander our grounds on Memorial Day weekend, you will be awestruck by the beautiful Parade of Flags which adorns the interior roads of our cemetery. Over 400 large casket flags are placed at 25-foot intervals to honor our country and the men and women who served for the freedom that we so enjoy.



Where do these flags come from? Who takes care of them? What can I do to help?

The flags lining our roadways once adorned the casket of a brave man or woman who was honored for their service as they were laid to rest. Each flag has the name of their veteran stenciled on the binding and is lovingly cared for by the Highland Park American Legion Post 374.

The flags will fly from Saturday morning until Monday afternoon of Memorial Day weekend. In addition, individual flags will be placed on the over 3800 graves of known veterans who have been laid to rest in our gardens. It is indeed a beautiful site!

Families may donate their burial flag to be used for this purpose by bringing it to the HMG office. We will collect the flags and then deliver them to the Legion. The Legion will stencil the name of the veteran on the binding and store it until needed next Memorial Day.

HMG cannot guarantee the location of where your flag will fly. It should be noted that the Legion cares for the flags which are flown at Pine Hill Cemetery as well. Therefore, while you may be assured that your flag will be flown to honor your veteran, it may be displayed at either Pine Hill or HMG in any given year.



Welcome a New Board Member to HMG!

Tiffany Clouse was born and raised in Ankeny, Iowa and graduated from Ankeny High School in 1997. She then attended Central College in Pella, Iowa where she majored in Psychology and minored in Sociology and Anthropology.

Tiffany worked in the field of psychology until an opportunity arose in 2001 for her to begin a career in television at Iowa PBS (formerly Iowa Public Television) where she is now the Administrative Assistant 2 / Production Assistant for the Production Department as well as the station's Closed Captioning & Accessibility Coordinator.

It was there in 2016 that she met Darrin, a Videographer for Iowa PBS, and they were married in June of 2022. They live in Beaverdale and enjoy spending time together spoiling their Husky, Collie and two cats, watching movies and true crime television, traveling, attending concerts and enjoying dinners at their favorite local restaurants. Tiffany also enjoys reading and practicing wellness, yoga and meditation.

Tiffany has been serving as Highland Memory Gardens' Board Recording Secretary since January 2022. She is proud and honored to continue the family tradition of serving on HMG's Board of Directors as of 2023, following in the footsteps of her great-uncle Edsel Lundberg, uncle David Wright and father Roger Hill.

HMG has GPS

HMG has GPS navigation directly linked to every grave in the cemetery. Visit our website

www.highlandmemorygardens.com

and click on "Download Our Mobile App" from the pull-down menu. This tool will navigate you to within 10-feet of a grave.



Contact information

Have you moved? Has your phone number and/or email address changed? Please remember to contact HMG with any changes to your contact information. Thank you!

THANK YOU!

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Staff at Highland Memory Garden Cemetery, we wish to give a sincere thank you to our former board member, Sue Woods, for her time and efforts while serving on our board and our Finance Committee.

Sue's life experiences, willingness to help and share her knowledge made Sue a valuable member. Many times, when needed, Sue and her husband, Jerry, stepped up to help answer questions and solve problems with our office staff.

Though Sue's time on our board was brief by board standards, Sue made an impact and gave our board and staff many ideas to help us move forward as an organization. Thanks again Sue.



Garden Improvements of HMG

Throughout 2022 we planted and prepared for future years to come here at Highland Memory Gardens.

With 16 more trees removed due to age and/or disease in the past year, we had the opportunity in the fall to plant 6 additional trees throughout the cemetery, which is the start of a program to add more trees to our gardens each year.

Along with several young oak trees we were able to plant a unique "Shingle Oak" and a "Northern Catalpa" tree. We look forward to watching them grow in the coming years

With the preparation for the tower restoration, this past

year we had to do some prep work to get ready for the heavy equipment that it will take to complete the job. One more "lollipop crabapple tree" at the entrance of the tower garden was removed along with possibly 50 peonies that had to be dug up and transplanted for the time being. Rumor has it these peonies are older than the tower and we look forward to bringing these heirlooms back to the garden to beautify the walkway once again.

Along with these projects, we again planted around 200 tulips and daffodils throughout the cemetery in the fall and are excited to see these additions bloom in the spring.



Grave Marker*



Personalized Marker*



Personal Expressions*

Designing Your Permanent Memorial

One thing that sets HMG apart from many cemeteries is our ability to provide memorial markers through an easy design process in our office. This can be done prior to time of need as part of pre-planning efforts or after a death has occurred. While it is often emotional and difficult to make design decisions after a death has occurred, the technology that has come along in the last decade through on-screen design has simplified this process and often makes it a less overwhelming experience.

Our major bronze company, ColdspringUSA, installed their Personal Reflections® program here at Highland Memory Gardens in 2015. With this program, we are able to show our families the finished product on a screen immediately. They have the opportunity to direct the design process, choose bronze and granite colors, select choice of emblems and customize endearments. The program offers a great variety of design options and allows families to customize their memorial to best reflect the person(s) that the bronze will memorialize forever.

We have numerous memorials which were purchased prior to 2015, the monies for which are held in trust until the time of death. Many of the selections were made using our former supplier. If you have purchased a memorial (especially prior to 2015) that has not yet been cast and placed in our gardens, we suggest you make an appointment with Jan, our Family Services Representative, to review your selection and possibly upgrade at no cost to our new supplier. As always, it is our pleasure to serve you.

*Photos Courtesy of Coldspring, ©2020 Coldspring



Yearly Cleanup Schedule

SPRING CLEANUP

1st Monday in March, weather permitting - or 1st day when ground is thawed so wreath stands can be removed (signs will be posted and notice sent via email).

MEMORIAL DAY CLEANUP

One week following Memorial Day - Monday, June 5, 2023. All items not in permanent vases will be removed and discarded.

FALL CLEANUP

1st Monday in October - Monday, October 2, 2023.
All permanent vases will be inverted into the ground for winter and all decorations will be removed and discarded. Remember, vase use is prohibited during the winter months to prevent damage.

Remember Your Loved One

Every life should be remembered. Everyone buried at HMG has their own page on our website, where you may share memories, events, pictures, etc. Go to www.highlandmemorygardens.com, and follow these steps to share a permanent tribute to your loved one:

1. "Locate a Loved One";
2. Insert loved one's last name (no spaces before or after the name);
3. Search;
4. Scroll to bottom to "Share Your Memories".

On the Memories Page, you will see a date field. Please change the date to reflect the approximate date of the event or photo so your memories will be placed in chronological order, resulting in the creation of a timeline of your loved ones' life.