

MENDENHALL CEMETERIES ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. BOX 838

MENDENHALL, MS 39114

NEWSLETTER NO. 22

JULY 2019

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

When visiting our cemeteries, it is sometimes easy not to consider the effort it takes to maintain the beauty of these sacred grounds, while safeguarding the rights of plot owners. We are blessed to have a group of dedicated contributors, volunteers, board members, and one employee that make it their mission and passion.

The finances of the MCA are divided into two categories:

1. General operating budget provides for the day-to-day care of the Cemeteries
2. Perpetual care budget is reserved to build principle to meet future needs.

We are challenged annually to meet our annual expenses, while continuing to give to a perpetual care fund.

Over the past year, MCA has made progress in many areas – here are a few key accomplishments:

1. Updated both MCA Rules & Regulations and MCA By-Laws to accurately reflect best practices and changing regulatory requirements.
2. Began to develop an Investment Strategy for our Perpetual Care funds to allow for maximum growth while minimizing unnecessary risks.
3. Developed the employee position of MCA Curator, complete with clear job duties and responsibilities and reporting requirements.
4. Formal association with Wreaths Across America – holiday decorations for veteran graves and fundraising.
5. Repaired and secured cemetery shed to house MCA equipment and supplies.
6. Began formal talks with local funeral homes to ensure requirements and expectations through a Letter of Understanding, Burial Registration, and Contacts List.
7. Continuing education of gravediggers as to MCA expectations and requirements.
8. Formal identification of all Veteran gravesites to expedite memorial decorations efforts.
9. Worked with City to unify garbage pickup across cemetery properties.
10. Developed MCA Facebook page to build awareness of progress and needs.
11. Website updated to allow for self-service info access to burial registry, rules and regulations and policy & procedures.

I am proud of these accomplishments and hope you see value in each one. If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any MCA board member.

As always, MCA needs your ongoing help and financial support. Please consider giving!

Thanks,
David Heil Massey, President

MCA ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

6:00 PM

**Meeting Room adjacent to
Mendenhall Police Department**

167 W Maud Ave (Across from City Hall)

2018-2019 MCA BOARD MEMBERS

President: David H. Massey

Secretary: Betty Sue Mangum

Treasurer: Miriam Hopkins

Members: Todd Booth, Tommy Lee,

Jan Magee, Gaye Magee-Sullivan,

Jimmy Weathersby

Cemetery Curator: Allan Rankin

HOW TO FIND US:

WEBSITE:

www.cityofmendenhall.com/cemetery.htm

EMAIL:

mendenhallcemetery@gmail.com

FACEBOOK:

[Mendenhall City Cemetery](#)



Mendenhall Cemeteries to Participate in WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA again this year!

Mendenhall Cemeteries Association will again be joining the effort to support the mission to Remember, Honor, Teach, as an official location for Wreaths Across America in 2019. This is our second year of participation in this national event to be held on **Saturday, December 14, 2019.**

Gaye Magee-Sullivan will serve as volunteer coordinator for our location again this year. She noted, “We were overwhelmed with the support we received in our community last year with our program on WAA Day and the sponsorship of wreaths that were placed in our cemeteries in Mendenhall and throughout Simpson County.” Over \$1,300 was raised for MCA through the sponsorship of wreaths locally.

Information will be mailed to MCA members and posted on the cemetery Facebook page in early November with more details on the 2019 program and how to sponsor a wreath locally for a veteran’s grave.

Wreaths Across America is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman Morrill Worcester in 1992.

Cemetery Yearly Reminders

1. Check the cornerstones of your plots often. West Cemetery does not require cornerstones. Burial accuracy depends on cornerstone markers.
2. Family members should have proof of ownership to schedule a funeral of loved ones to insure the accuracy of location.

Your donations are appreciated each year. They are tax deductible and can be mailed to:

***Mendenhall Cemeteries Association, P.O. Box 838,
Mendenhall, MS 39114***

MCA offers four (4) Memorial Cards for \$100 that will be mailed to you to be sent as a memorial to families of deceased with a personal note.

We also request that you consider designating MCA as a suggested memorial to honor a deceased loved one. Memorial donation notifications will be promptly sent to the family of the deceased.

Have You Considered an IRA Charitable Rollover?

If you are 70½ or older you may also be interested in a way to lower the income and taxes from your IRA withdrawals. An IRA charitable rollover is a way you can help continue our work and benefit this year.

Benefits of an IRA charitable rollover

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to our organization
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts

Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to MCA.

**Mendenhall Cemeteries Assn, Inc.
FINANCIALS**

FYE	Administration	Maintenance	Insurance	Total
6/30/17	\$846.88	\$16,641.95	\$ 989.99	\$18,477.83
6/30/18	\$775.55	\$16,733.31	\$1,012.00	\$18,516.86
6/30/19	\$1,665.29	\$16,237.20	\$ 500.00	\$18,402.49

NEW AMERICAN FLAGS DONATED!

Over 250 American flags were donated to MCA by WoodmanLife Magee, MS Chapter 336. The flags are placed yearly on veteran’s graves on Memorial Day at the cemeteries in Mendenhall.

Thank you to WoodmenLife Chapter 336 in Magee for the generous donation!