



A Gateway Into History

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FALL 2014 • VOLUME 5, NUMBER 2

Anne Carter and Walter R. Robins, Jr. Foundation

Friends of Hollywood Cemetery Receives \$150,000 Grant

On April 30, Friends of Hollywood received notification from the Anne Carter Robins and Walter R. Robins, Jr. Foundation (the “Foundation”) of the largest grant award – **\$150,000** – in Friends’ five year history. The grant will enable Friends to complete restoration and installation of the Palmer Fence and to re-landscape and beautify the Glade.

The Foundation was established in 1995 in memory of Walter R. Robins, Jr. and in honor of Anne Carter Robins by their daughters, Anne Carter Mallory and M.



Workers placing a curved granite foundation for the Palmer Fence.

Bruce Robins. Mr. Robins died in 1989 after a successful career as a real estate investor; Mrs. Robins died in 2002. The Foundation’s first grant of \$1,000 was made in 1995. Since its beginning and as a result of prudent investing, the Foundation has awarded a total of \$5,121,350 to one hundred or more

individual non-profits in Richmond and throughout Virginia. Both daughters are deceased and are buried with their parents, Mrs. Robins’s parents (their

grandparents), and three unmarried sisters of Mrs. Robins in the Carter plot at Hollywood.

Rita M. Smith, a longtime Robins’ family friend, serves as a Foundation Trustee and Treasurer. She fondly remembers each member of the family. “They were good to individuals and organizations,” she nostalgically recalls. “Once they got to know you, they considered you part of the family. Being with them was always a joy for me.”



Newly fabricated corner section of the Palmer Fence.

In November, 2013, the

Foundation was awarded the prestigious “Foundation of the Year Award” at National Philanthropy Day’s annual award luncheon in Richmond. “I wish that the Robins family could have been there for that very special honor,” Smith remarked. The Foundation was nominated for the award by the VCU’s Massey Cancer Center, a longtime recipient of the Foundation’s philanthropy. For years, contributions to the Center have been earmarked for clinical trials.

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The Foundation Trustees are sensitive to awarding grants to organizations and for causes that might have special meaning to the Robins family. From animal welfare and the elimination of cancer, the list includes the environment, arts and culture, special needs education, outreach to the handicapped or disadvantaged, and conservation and preservation.

“When Rita Smith last visited Hollywood, there was much to share with her,” Kelly Wilbanks, Friends Executive Director, recalls. “She seemed particularly fascinated with Presidents Circle and the re-design that has occurred



Unloading one of numerous sections of the restored Palmer Fence.

there.” Work has been all but completed – the one outstanding item being the Palmer Fence. The original rinceau style fence dates to the 19th century and the early



*The “Glade” as it currently appears.
It was one of Hollywood’s original ponds.*

days of the Cemetery. “It is perhaps the most beautiful piece of cast iron in the Cemetery, if not in Richmond,” comments Wilbanks. From a few remaining fragments, restoration was undertaken, molds were made, and

sections cast. Today, the fence, almost three hundred feet in length, awaits installation.

The Glade is located to the right of the earthen bridge roadway as one enters the cemetery. Historically referred to as “short bottom,” it was one of the Cemetery’s very special water features. Along with “long bottom” on the left, it was drained in the mid 1900’s when maintenance and insects became an issue. Friends have engaged a Virginia landscape architect to provide plans to re-landscape and beautify the Glade. In addition to serving as prominent entrance feature for the cemetery, the Glade will become a scattering garden for cremated remains.

Friends of Hollywood wishes to express its deepest appreciation to Rita Smith and other Foundation Trustees for their special interest in Hollywood Cemetery, for their spectacular philanthropy over many years, and for their generous support of Friends of Hollywood. The Foundation’s generosity will allow the organization to continue meaningful efforts to preserve one of Richmond’s most outstanding landmarks.

Friends of Hollywood Cemetery would like to thank

Dominion and the Dominion Foundation

For the **\$25,000** grant to support environmental preservation efforts with a James River observation point at Palmer Chapel. This is the first Environmental Stewardship grant Friends has received.

Friends of Hollywood was one of thirty-three organizations that received \$500,000 in grants supporting environmental stewardship initiatives across Virginia. These initiatives include programs that “protect and preserve natural habitats and open spaces, prevent pollution, make nature accessible, and educate the public about environmental stewardship.” Friends is grateful for our partnership with Dominion.

Irish American Society Commemorates Mary Ryan and Other Victims of Brown's Island Explosion

On March 29, members of the Irish American Society of Greater Richmond dedicated a historic marker remembering the victims of a tragic explosion that took place on March 13, 1863 during the Civil War on Brown's Island. Fifty people lost their lives in the accident at the Confederate munitions factory, including many young Irish girls who worked there. The delicate and dangerous work often required small hands.



The Irish American banner was prominent at the Ceremony.

Mary Ryan, 17, is widely blamed for causing the explosion. At the time, she was filling primers—the devices used to ignite gunpowder inside cannons. According to some reports, her attempt to dislodge a jammed primer caused a blast, which then

ignited the materials in the room and led to a second and larger explosion.

At the ceremony, the Society unveiled the marker, engraved with a Celtic cross and the message: “In Memory of Mary Ryan and the 14 other victims of the March 13, 1863 explosion on Brown's Island, who are laid to rest here in Hollywood Cemetery.” The names and ages of the victims—the youngest just ten-years-old—are engraved on the marker.

About six or seven victims are believed to be buried at the location of the monument, says Karon Bell, a board member of the Irish American Society who helped raise funds for the project. Many of the victims of the tragedy lay in unmarked graves in cemeteries throughout the city. “You had a lot of very poor people at the time; some of them may have been buried in friends of family plots,” she says.



A young woman depicts Mary Ryan at age seventeen.



Red and white roses were placed by the marker honoring each of the fifteen victims buried at Hollywood.

At the ceremony, Kelly Kennedy led the crowd in singing the Irish and U.S. national anthems, Lainey Riddell and Eddy O'Malley (from County Galway, Ireland) helped set the scene in period costume, and historian Mike Gorman provided an account of the tragic afternoon. Father James Begley offered a blessing and then red and white roses were laid for each of the victims. The event ended with a bagpiper performing “Amazing Grace” as he slowly walked away from the gravesite.

Bell is pleased that the victims, over 150 years later, now have a proper marker. “I think it was a very horrible tragedy that happened to these young immigrant girls and we needed some way to remember this and honor them for giving their lives to the war,” she says. “It's something worth remembering.”

Dedicated Craftsman Chris Beauchamp Repairs Hollywood's Ornate Iron Work

When Chris Beauchamp arrived in 2007, Hollywood Cemetery was still trying to dig out from the damage of Hurricane Isabel.

“A lot of the fencing was dilapidated and falling down or bent by tree limbs,” he recalls. Additionally, due to wear and tear over the years, much of the fencing was buried in the ground or missing sections.



Chris Beauchamp (middle) with two members of his Art-a-Metal crew.

Fortunately, Beauchamp (pronounced Beech-am) enjoys a challenge. After learning welding while serving in the U.S. Coast Guard, and apprenticing with a Newport News Shipbuilding contractor, he created railings, spiral staircases, and other ornamental designs for Associated Steel Products in Charlottesville. He opened his own shop, Art-a-Metal, in the Eastern Shore's Accomack County in 1997. His background prepared him for the intricate work needed for the antique posts and finials at Hollywood, where he and his crew put in about 40 man hours a week, when the weather cooperates.

“Chris does a very thorough job in dealing with the restoration of the iron work at Hollywood Cemetery. It is very tedious work at times and sometimes involves re-grading the landscape or removing vegetation to accomplish this work. It is difficult to find craftsmen who can do the restoration work on wrought and cast iron,” says David Gilliam, Hollywood Cemetery General Manager.

Beauchamp's projects have included countless repairs throughout the cemetery, with many of the projects in

the older sections, where some of the fencing is over 150 years old. In the cemetery's early days, each family plot came with a wrought or cast iron fence surrounding it. A significant amount of fencing was donated in iron collections during the Civil War and World War I.

He has worked on countless individual plots as well as larger efforts, such as Presidents Circle, and various connected plots in section M, one of the older, “alphabet” sections. The section includes a large monument to Dr. R.W. “John” Dove, who served as the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Virginia for over 30 years.

The job “involved a good 300 yards of fencing, and there was a lot of it missing,” he says. The posts in the section feature an ornate, winding rose design and a cannonball finial with a fleur-de-lis design atop. Since there were not enough of the original finials, he reserved those for the gateways and topped the remaining posts with cannonball finials. When he has to create a new post or finial, he uses cast iron.

“Whatever we put back, we're trying to stay as close to the original as possible. Sometimes we get lucky and we'll find some here and there. And when we get that chance, we'll try to buy them up. If we can't do that ... we'll go out and have a mold made and have that particular cast iron piece recast,” he says. Finial molds cost \$1,600, he says.

Hollywood Cemetery Grounds Foreman, Donald Toney, also helps Beauchamp scout for missing pieces. “Chris believes in what he's doing, he loves it, and when you find someone like that, you're very fortunate,” Toney says.

The other members of the Art-a-Metal team are Larry Gibson from Charlottesville, Greg Giles from Madison County, and Marvin Bundick from the Eastern Shore.

With larger projects, Beauchamp will break down the fencing into its various sections and bring it back to the shop to repair. Because of the weight of antique iron, he likes to weld the pieces on-site when possible.

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Before

Often isolated in his task, Beauchamp has never seen a ghost in Hollywood Cemetery, but he has gotten a good scare.

“I had my welding shield on and was working on a gate. You can’t hear anything and the only thing you can see is the arc from the light. All of a sudden, someone grabbed me on the shoulder and said, ‘hello,’” he says, with a laugh.

The visitor turned out to be a friendly member of the cemetery’s grounds committee.

A history buff, Beauchamp is very knowledgeable about the prominent individuals buried in the cemetery. “There’s an old gentleman over here whose plantation was across the creek where I grew up--Henry Wise. The only governor of Virginia that I know of from the Eastern Shore,” he says.

Every January 1st, he takes an inventory of the fencing in the cemetery, checking past work and making plans for the future.

“In my lifetime, I’d prefer not to see the cemetery get back into the shape it was when I first started,” he says, “because there’s too much history there to lose.”



Section D, Lot #159

After



Before



Section R, Lot #185

After



“Teach the way, not the self...”

Japanese Students, Dignitaries Honor Educator and Missionary Bishop C.M. Williams in Special Service

A curious scene took place at the grave site of Bishop C.M. Williams on the morning of March 27th. A chartered bus pulled up and a lively crowd of about 40 middle and high school aged boys and their chaperones emerged. They brought out instruments of all sizes and set up chairs to face the Bishop’s grave. The boys, who were members of their school’s wind orchestra, were



Young Bishop Williams. It is said to be the only photograph taken while he was in Japan.

dressed neatly, in matching jackets emblazoned with the crest of the Rikkyo School in Japan. Bishop Williams, a Richmond native, had started the school over 140 years ago and they were preparing to honor him with a special service. They’d brought most of their instruments all the way from Tokyo.

“The Bishop C.M. Williams Memorial Service in Commemoration of Rikkyo School’s 140th Foundation Service” began as the youthful band played “God of Our Fathers,” the Bishop’s favorite hymn. Shintaro Ichihara, the school’s chaplain, presided over the service, conducted in both Japanese and English. During the service, those in attendance learned more about the unusual story of the American Episcopal bishop who has inspired

generations of young Japanese students.

Channing Moore Williams was born in Richmond on July 18, 1829. His father, a farmer, died when Williams was young. His widowed mother worked tirelessly to support her children. Little is known of his childhood, but at age 20, he began studying at the College of William and Mary, graduating in 1853. He then attended Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, from which he graduated in 1855. He served as a deacon in Alexandria’s St. Paul’s Church.

To China and A New Life (1855)

Later that year, his life took a dramatic turn. In November 1855, under the direction of Bishop William Boone, the first Anglican missionary bishop of Shanghai, he sailed from New York with the Rev. John Liggins, bound for missionary work in China. “A perilous, seven months’ voyage, broken only at Rio de Janeiro and Sydney, brought them to Shanghai finally on June 28, 1856,” writes Hisakazu Kaneko in “A Story of Channing Moore Williams, The Bishop of Yedo.”

Their difficult journey had only just begun, however. After learning Chinese, and being ordained in 1857, Williams began preaching. He and Liggins were often persecuted for their beliefs—even being flogged and stoned by the crowds that gathered.

At the request of the American Episcopal Church, the two men set up a mission station in Nagasaki in July 1859, and in so doing, became the first Protestant missionaries in Japan. At the time, Christians were associated with black magic, and missionary activities were prohibited in the country. Williams wrote about the difficult environment to the Mission Board in 1861. “There is no immediate prospect of being permitted to engage in active missionary duties. Our wisdom is to sit still for the present,” he says in the letter. Nonetheless, in 1862, he directed the building of a small church in Nagasaki—the first Protestant church in Japan-- which offered services for foreign residents.



The Main Building is the symbol of Rikkyo School. The school has the largest high school gym and pool in all of Tokyo.

He also taught English and other subjects to local students. During this time, he taught math to Shigenoby Okuma, who would one day become the Prime Minister of Japan.

In 1866, following the death of Bishop Boone, the Church elected Williams to the office of Bishop of

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China and Japan. He briefly returned to the U.S., where his consecration took place in St. John's Chapel in New York on October 3, 1866.

He then moved to Woonchong, China, to tend to his congregation there "but he could not forget the country he had left behind," writes Kaneko. He returned to Japan, this time settling in Osaka.

His timing proved fortuitous. In 1873, the Japanese government ordered the removal of public notice boards that displayed an Edict Against Christianity, that had been in place for over 200 years.

A School Established (1874)

In the more tolerant environment, he moved the mission's headquarters from Osaka to the new capital, Toyko (formerly Yedo) in 1873. He then established, in February 1874, a small, private school in Tsukiji, Tokyo where English classes and Bible studies were taught. This institution, which eventually became known as the Rikkyo School, began with five students. He later expanded the campus to include a university (1883) and junior high (1896).



Left to Right: Jun Itoigawa, Chairman, Board of Directors; Shintaro Ichihara, Chaplain; and David Charlton, President of Church Schools in the Diocese of Virginia

Williams led a morning service every day at the school, in Japanese. He

also taught Bible studies and English classes. He resided in one of the rooms of the school, and lived a simple and modest life. According to Kaneko, he wore a threadbare suit that had been turned inside out and always traveled third class, "because, he said, there was no fourth." He



Forty middle and high school age boys – all members of Rikkyo School's Wind Orchestra perform at the ceremony.

quickly and quietly gave money to beggars in the street, so as to not attract attention to himself. "Teach the way, not the self," became a phrase that many connected to him.

Under his guidance, the American mission in Japan expanded its brick and mortar efforts, including a number of schools as well as a medical dispensary (1885) that grew into St. Luke's International Hospital. In 1887, the Nippon Selkokai (the Episcopal Church in Japan) was established.

Bishop Williams resigned from his office in 1889, feeling he was too old to continue his work. He continued to serve his adopted countrymen as an ordinary priest in Osaka and then Kyoto, where he would spend the rest of his days in Japan.

His health continued to deteriorate, however.

On April 30, 1908, he boarded the S.S. Siberia, bound for the U.S. for

a final time. He settled in the home of a niece who lived in Richmond. He lived there for two years before passing away on December 1, 1910. According to Kaneko, "it is reported that before he died he was mumbling in Japanese to the perplexed nurses."

"Seeds now a Tree"

"Some of the seeds he (Bishop Williams) planted have been growing and now it is a big tree," said Jun Itoigawa, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Rikkyo School, speaking at the memorial service in Richmond.

Today, the Rikkyo School (also known as St. Paul's) includes the Rikkyo primary, middle and high schools as well as Rikkyo University,

one of the most prominent private liberal arts and research institutions in Japan, which serves over 20,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The schools and the university have campuses in both Ikebukuro and Niiza.

Since their beginning 140 years ago, the schools have remained committed to the Christian values of Bishop Williams—although, of course, the students come from a variety of religious backgrounds. His statue resides in a side garden of Rikkyo University's famous ivy-covered chapel.

"We are with the Bishop every day in our school life and he is still able to teach us," concluded Chaplain Ichihara at the service.

For much of the historical information in this article, we are indebted to Hisakazu Kaneko's fine publication, "A Story of Channing Moore Williams, The Bishop of Yedo" (originally published by St. Paul's University in 1964, and revised and republished by his widow, Mrs. C. Hisako Kaneko, in 2004).

What's in a Name?

An Interview with the Hayes-Davis Family

On November 7, Bertram Hayes-Davis, a great-great grandson of Jefferson Davis visited Hollywood Cemetery with his wife, Carol. The pair had traveled to Richmond from their home in Biloxi, Mississippi for a United Daughters of the Confederacy speaking engagement.

In Biloxi, they have been active in preservation efforts for Beauvoir, the Confederate President's historic home and presidential library, which they hope one day will be viewed as a "Monticello of the South." Hayes-Davis, president of the Beauvoir Foundation, also served as executive director of the home until his resignation last March; Mrs. Hayes-Davis previously handled programs and events for the stately manor. Since 1976, he has also served as president of the Davis Family Association, which has about 1,700 members. The non-profit organizes the annual family reunion and also sponsors scholarships, research and grants, historic trips and speakers.

At Hollywood, the couple visited the family plot in Davis Circle, where Jefferson Davis is buried along with his wife, Varina, and his daughters, Winnie and Margaret, and other family members. Afterwards, the Hayes-Davises stopped by Hollywood Cemetery offices, where they talked about Beauvoir, interesting family traditions, and the unusual story behind their last name. Of all the Jefferson Davis descendants, Hayes-Davis is the only one, other than his children, who carries the last name "Davis." His great-grandmother Margaret, who married a Hayes, was the only child of Jefferson and Varina Davis to bear children.

Q: Tell me about how your great-grandmother Margaret carried on the Davis name.

BHD: Davis dies in New Orleans in December 1889 and the entire Hayes family comes down to New Orleans on a train. He's lying in state and Varina Davis is in a hotel across the street. So Margaret Hayes (and her children), Lucinda Hayes, William Davis Hayes, Jefferson Addison Hayes and Varina Hayes are also in that room. Winnie is in England. And Varina Davis walks up and points across the way and says, "There lies the last Davis. Isn't it a shame we can't do something about it?" So in that room, one of my relatives, probably Varina (Davis), said, "We need to change his name" pointing at my grandfather. So, here's my grandfather, Jefferson Addison Hayes and they ask him if he would change his name.

Q: And he was how old?

BHD: Six.

CHD: So they ask a six-year-old, "Would you change your name?" Of course he says, "Sure."

BHD: So they go to the state legislature, and the state of Mississippi changes his name from Jefferson Addison Hayes to Jefferson Hayes-Davis. And that was on his birth certificate.

The other half of the story is that in 1976, we have a Jefferson Davis family reunion and I'm standing in the glade at Rosemont (Plantation in Mississippi; a former home of Jefferson Davis where the family meets every two years), and we've decided to create a Davis family association and make it a non-profit. Of course to do that, you have to have a board of officers. (They go through the slate) and we get to president. And I'm standing next to my cousin, and his father is across the glade looking at us, and he said, "There is only one person who should be president of the Davis family association." And he points, and I'm thinking he's pointing at his son. And he says, "Bertram Hayes-Davis."

And so I'm remembering my great-grandfather in the room that day recalling what changed his life, and at that moment what changed my life. Because I became the person who had no idea who Jefferson Davis was, other than he was president of the Confederate States of America, making me want to be as knowledgeable about that as I could. You look at the way God acts in your life and here are these two instances and they directly parallel.

Q: Can you tell me about any interesting family traditions?

CHD: At the reunions, they have the oldest and the youngest cut a cake. And they use Jefferson Davis's sword to cut the cake. They take it out of the case to cut the cake.

BHD: Someday that's going to be me--I'm going to be the oldest one there. 100 years old and I'm going to cut that cake. I've never gotten to do that.

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Q: Tell me about your need to tell Jefferson Davis' story. What do you think hasn't been told in the past?

BHD: We speak a lot about the one line in history book: "Jefferson Davis is appointed President of the Confederate States of America." (When the couple speaks to groups, he says, they also point out that Davis was also a senator and congressman) He was the Secretary of War and without his leadership we wouldn't have the Capitol building today. We talk about the transcontinental railroad and the Gadsden Purchase. We talk about his service in the Army, the War of 1847, and the Black Hawk War. And then we talk about afterwards, his imprisonment, and being a man without a country and losing four out of six kids.

CHD: He became the martyr of the war. Lee got away, all these others got away, but he became the symbol. ... The main thing is we are trying to get across is to educate people about what Jefferson Davis did for this country.

BHD: His 52 years of being a patriot have been eliminated. People believe he was always just that one person ... So, history has gotten lost. And we think Jefferson Davis is as important a historic figure as anyone else you want to name.

Q: What are your feelings about Hollywood Cemetery? What are your impressions about it?

BHD: It's an amazing monument to history. We're a very small part of the history that's here.

CHD: On the way in, we were talking about how hard it must be for some of these cemeteries to carry on ... But this place has so much historical significance. And it is absolutely gorgeous. You've got the river and you've got so many things that make it a special place. ... Every time we come here there is always someone in Davis Circle. Many times, when the weather is beautiful, they're painting. They've got their easels out there.

BHD: And this place is not mournful. It's historic. It's a learning experience.

In December, the Hayes-Davises will be leading a historic steamboat trip down the Mississippi River that chronicles the life of Jefferson Davis. Proceeds from the trip will benefit the Beauvoir Foundation. For information on this trip and others, please visit BeauvoirFoundation.org



Though his funeral and burial took place in New Orleans, Jefferson Davis was reinterred in Hollywood Cemetery at his widow's request in 1893. The life-size bronze statue of him erected in the family plot on Davis Circle was selected from three designs. "There was a big battle about the hat," says Bertram Hayes-Davis standing next to his wife, Carol. "I think there's only one picture of him with a hat on."

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Special Ceremony Held Each Year At Angel Statue

In the Idlewood section of Hollywood Cemetery, a large bronze angel statue of a child stands atop a pedestal. The angel is looking heavenward as she reaches toward the viewer with her palms gently turned up. Her hair, gown and feathered wings flow in the wind. Carefully etched under one wing is the word, "Hope." For years, the statue has brought just that to the families who gather there each December for a special ceremony. It all started with the efforts of a grieving father.



*"Our Children
No Longer in Our Sight
Forever in Our Hearts"*

Ty Johnson's daughter died ten years ago. His voice is still overcome with emotion as he remembers her. "My second child, Reagan, was born July 16, 2003. On March 6, 2004, she was shaken by a babysitter and passed away," says Johnson. The babysitter later pleaded guilty to several charges and was sentenced to prison.

In the days following Reagan's death, he says, he began to search the internet for a fitting memorial. He selected a large, white marble angel and had it placed on her grave in Hollywood Cemetery. During his search, though, "I

happened across this thing called the 'Angel of Hope.' It piqued my interest."

He learned that many communities across the country had erected identical bronze angels in their cemeteries to memorialize lost children and create a place for collective healing. The memorials—also known as "Christmas Box" angel statues--were inspired by the best-selling novel of that same name by Utah writer Richard Paul Evans. In the book, a woman mourns her child at the foot of an angel monument. Evans was inspired by an actual statue that is believed to have perished in a flood. A lot of people started calling the author, asking about the statue. "They had this connection [to it]," says Johnson.

Evans commissioned a new angel statue, modeled after the one described in his book. A dedication ceremony took place at the Salt Lake City Cemetery on December 6th, 1994. Evans allowed replicas of the 4'3" tall statue to be made available to others, at no profit.

The more Johnson read about the angel statues, the more he felt compelled to bring one to Richmond. "It was something I had to do—both for myself, to give my mind something to work on at the time, and also for the community." (His wife, Angela, meanwhile, began devoting her time to child advocacy issues.)

He spent the next two years raising funds for the bronze statue, which cost \$12,500. For the base, he turned to longtime Hollywood stonecutters A. P. Grappone & Sons, who had created the foundation for Reagan's monument. Tony and Albert [now deceased] Grappone surprised him by donating the granite base free of charge. (It is engraved with "Angel of Hope" and a short message: "Our Children / No longer in our sight / Forever in our hearts.")

Then, Hollywood Cemetery General Manager David Gilliam offered Johnson, gratis, a large triangular plot located near Reagan's grave. "I was just dumbfounded," he says. "I couldn't believe it." The dedication for the statue took place at Hollywood Cemetery on May 13, 2006. Later that year, Johnson organized his first Children's Remembrance Candlelight Ceremony at the angel statue on December 6th. The annual event is held on the same date as similar services around the country.

Johnson speaks at the brief ceremony and then, "at the end, we give the opportunity for anyone who wants to come forward and say the name of a child, and lay a white flower at the base of the angel." Afterwards, the families gather for coffee and cookies.

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“We can share our stories of our children. It’s a nice open atmosphere ... Everyone there has been through it,” he says.

Families visit the statue year round, often leaving stuffed animals and other mementos. One local couple visits the site regularly because it offers her a convenient location to remember their son, who is buried in West Virginia. Often, people will ask Johnson if they can visit the statue—even if their children were already grown up when they passed away.

“A child is a child,” he says. “The memorial is there for anyone who has lost a child, regardless of age.”

The Children’s Remembrance Candlelight Ceremony will be held at the Angel of Hope statue on December 6th at 6 p.m. It is free and open to the public.

Talley Joins Friends Board

Friends of Hollywood is pleased to announce the election of Elizabeth Wilkins Talley to its Board of Directors.



Liz is a native of Winchester, Virginia. She is a graduate of the Madeira School and Sweetbriar College where she earned a Bachelor’s degree in Economics in 1988. From 1989 to 1993, she worked in the Trusts and Estates Department of Sotheby’s, Inc. in New York City. During her tenure in New York, she also completed a graduate certificate program at the Parsons School of Design with a concentration in the History of Decorative Arts.

Liz brings to Friends a keen interest in and enthusiasm for Hollywood conservation and restoration as well as community outreach activities. She serves currently as President of the James River Garden Club where she has demonstrated her passion for gardening and horticulture. Past board service includes the Museum of the Confederacy (now, the American Civil War Museum), the Sheltering Arms Hospital Junior Board (Past President), Historic Richmond Foundation, the William Byrd Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities and Belle Grove Plantation.

Liz is married to William St. Clair Talley, a Richmond architect. The Talley’s have two sons.

We welcome Liz to the Board of Friends where she will most certainly make a tremendous contribution.

Introducing our new Website

Some features of the website include:

- Informative biographies of the 49 notables at Hollywood Cemetery
- In-depth timeline of the history of the cemetery
- Things to do and see during your visit
- A list of available tour options
- Upcoming events hosted by Hollywood Cemetery
- A downloadable cemetery map
- Information on available burial options
- A genealogy platform where users can search the burial records of any one buried in the cemetery
- Information on how you can support Hollywood Cemetery
- Links to Hollywood Cemetery’s social media

Also, coming soon:

- An interactive virtual tour
- Mobile-friendly online mapping platform

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Forty middle and high school students visit Hollywood, dressed in matching jackets emblazoned with the crest of the Rikkyo School (Japan).