

Newsletter No. 21

NEWSLETTER
MENDENHALL CEMETERIES ASSN, INC.
P. O. BOX 838
MENDENHALL, MS 39114

July 24, 2018

ANNUAL MEETING July 24, 2018** 5:00 PM** MENDENHALL**

2 Corinthians 8:12-15 Be Ready to Give as the Need Arises

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is that time of the year that the Mendenhall Cemeteries Association, Inc. has the annual meeting for the fiscal year that began July 1, 2017-ended June 30, 2018. This year it will be at a different location in Mendenhall. It is a room located in the Police Department in Mendenhall across from the City Hall at 5 PM, July 24. This newsletter is to invite everyone that has family members or close friends interred in our cemeteries to attend. We would like to know what you have seen over the last year on your visits to the cemeteries and that you may have some suggestions for improvement in the upkeep for the operations as the MCA's Board continues to oversee, manage, and that the cemeteries included in the Association are properly maintained. Thank you for your support in donations that help preserve, beautify, protect, and provide for the continued upkeep and maintenance of our historical Mendenhall Cemeteries. This is the 21st annual meeting that has been held. And without your donations and the local board members that are dedicated to continuing to serve, it would be like many of the smaller town cemeteries are today. They have no volunteers and no funds to maintain, it is a Southern tradition with us of taking care of cemeteries where loved ones are buried. It is sad to see the condition of some cemeteries that have been abandoned. How could this happen? It can if there is not enough interest in the care and upkeep, deaths of all relatives and the members of a community and families lacking interest. Hopefully this will never happen here, because it ever remains the goal of the MCA to continue receiving donations that we can hopefully always have funds that are growing and invested in a perpetual fund. Pray that the day may come when it is fully funded and can be forever lasting and beautiful as we continue to engage newer generations of MCA Board Members, Donors, volunteers and employees.
Thanks, David H. Massey

Thinking about Christmas in July

We want to inform our members of a Christmas project that we would like to happen for our Veterans buried in the Mendenhall Cemeteries. We have 302 Veterans in our cemeteries, ranging from the Civil War, World War I & II, Spanish American War, Korean War, Vietnam War Veterans and others that served in all the branches of the Military Service. We have honored them every Memorial Day in past years placing flags by their tombstones. Some Veterans in the older section have only this flag as a memorial to their service to our country in years.

Gaye Magee Sullivan has volunteered to coordinate the ceremony and our cemeteries as participating with more than 1200 locations across the USA that will be participating in December 2018 with WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA. There will be a ceremony on Saturday, December 15, 2018 at the American Flag. The goal of WAA is to have a live balsam fir wreath with a red ribbon at the headstone of every VETERAN buried here. You will receive a letter in a few weeks from Gaye explaining how that can be done, it will take family members, friends and businesses as sponsors. www.wreathsAcrossAmerica.org

2017-2018 BOARD MEMBERS

President - David Massey
Vice-President - Marshall Magee
Secretary - Betty Sue Mangum
Treasurer - Miriam Hopkins
Members: Curtis McMillan, Tommy Lee, Perry Lee, Jan Magee, Todd Booth
Cemetery Supervisor: Tom Layton

WEBSITE: www.cityofmendenhall.com/cemetery.htm
EMAIL ADDRESS: mendenhallcemetery@gmail.com

APPEARANCE OF OUR CEMETERIES

Our 2017 Newsletter last year addressed SECTION I of the **Rules and Regulations** that can be found on the City of Mendenhall's website. Type this web address below in your computer, phone or tablet. (or mail a request to MCA)

www.cityofmendenhall.com/cemetery.htm

Scroll down several newsletters and inside the Procedures Manual are the Rules and Regulations, these the By-Laws adopted by the Mendenhall Cemeteries Association Charter Board Members in 1998 and are the MCA's provisions that relate to how the association conducts its affairs and responsibilities to the association. The MCA authorized in late spring of this year that all the faded flowers be removed, by maintenance and authorized that any other items, small or large to be removed allowing the mowing service hired to mow the grounds close to the many tombstones. Many thanks to those of you that continue to assist in keeping the area clear of unauthorized items for the safety and uniformity of our grounds. Mowing equipment could be damaged or someone visiting the cemetery could be injured. We need to maintain a safe environment for visitors. If you wish to meet with the board to discuss the Rules and Regulations, please attend the annual meeting on July 24, 2018 at 5:00 PM to discuss any concern you may have with the enforcement of the rules and regulations concerning the appearance of the cemetery. These are some of items are not allowed such as solar lights, ceramic figurines, slabs of any type, concrete benches and statues. If they are left in the cemetery, the association will send a grave issue letter to the family to remove the items listed and if they are not within 60 days, they will be moved to an area of storage to be picked up when a request is made by the family of the deceased to the Board.

Some interesting Historical facts about the Mendenhall Cemeteries that you may not know.....

There are several people that come to mind that needs to be given credit for helping acquire this history of the cemeteries but one person that was instrumental in writing a history in 2008 to our cemeteries was Leslie Magee. The MCA was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 1998. The Board consists of 9 members. Leslie Magee, deceased in 2017, became a board member, but he had a passion to record a list of burials in all the six sections of the cemetery, along with

help from Mary Hazel Nicholson, Sara Shoemaker and Mildred Greer. This was not a small task, it was six sections filled with 1523 burials to be recorded at that time, now it has over 1800 recorded burials. Leslie also researched for the history of the beginning when the land became Mendenhall's Cemeteries from several acquisitions over a period of 95 years. The area was a village named Edna settled before 1872, located South of the railroad, known as South Main, near Sellers Creek. It became the county seat voted by the citizens from Simpson County, and in 1901 it was changed to Mendenhall. Albert Q May donated the Old May Cemetery to the town of Mendenhall in 1923. The cemetery has been in existence for over 150 years. It is thought in early 1860's the family of Judge William May (1814-1893) established the May Family Cemetery. Records confirmed that Elizabeth May was the first person buried there in 1863. In the early 1940's it became obvious that the cemetery was becoming overcrowded. Dr. Parham Walker owned the adjoining land and began selling plots. This solved the problems until more adjoining property was purchased by in the early 2000's with some additional burial sites. The Mendenhall Cemeteries Association was formed in 1997 to be responsible for the maintenance and improvement of the cemetery, establishment the rules and regulations and initiate of a Perpetual Care funding addition and without you as a member of the association and your generosity of your tax - free donations and memorials into that fund, our cemeteries would not be able to continue to provide a lasting and honorable memorial for your loved ones as well as theirs.

CEMETERY YEARLY REMINDERS

Check your corner stones to your plots often. West Cemetery does not require corner stones.

Burial accuracy depends on these markers. Family members should have proof of ownership to schedule a funeral of their 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 at the PO Box 838, Mendenhall, MS 39114. MCA still offers 4 memorial cards for \$100.00 that will be mailed to you, if you request so that you can send them as a memorial to families of deceased with a personal note. List the Mendenhall Cemeteries as a Memorial for the loss of a family member, PO Box 838, Mendenhall, MS.

Memorial Donations will be promptly being sent to the family of the deceased