


## President's Message

Our company has a rich history and we are dedicated to preserving long established traditions of quality care and service. Although we allocate many resources to celebrating our past, in recent years we have found it is equally important that we invest our energies in planning for the future.

The Woodlawn Cemetery was organized under the New York Rural Cemetery Act of 1847. In its founding years, the cemetery was a private corporation.



Regulatory laws changed and Woodlawn now operates under provisions of Section 1500 of the New York State not-for-profit corporation law. Lot, Grave, Crypt and Niche owners comprise the membership of the corporation. Each year at our Annual Meeting the members elect Trustees to serve on the Board of Trustees.

Through its standing committees, our Board of Trustees establishes company policies and approves budgets for the cemetery. These standing committees include: Buildings & Grounds, Finance, Pension, Nominating, Audit and the Executive Committee. Over

the course of this past year, our eight-member Board committed hundreds of hours evaluating the management of our trust funds, reviewing plans for future development as well as the strategic operation of the cemetery.

As a result of their hard work, we have reorganized our trust funds to ensure the financial stability of the company for generations to come. In addition, we have developed new in-ground burial space and completed the Garden Conservatory Mausoleum, which will enable us to continue to meet the needs of the New York community. Much of this work has been done under the leadership of our Chairman, Thomas L. Pulling, who has served as a Trustee since 1978 and as Chairman of the Board since February 2002.

Our Annual Meeting is held the third Thursday of March each year. As Lot Owners, you have the opportunity to ask questions, review our annual report and financial statements and voice your opinions to the Board of Trustees and management staff. As members of our organization, we want to make sure you have the opportunity to voice your concerns. But you don't need to wait for our annual meeting. In order to best serve our Lot Owners, we encourage you to stop by our Administrative Office or contact us by phone, letter or email anytime. We look forward to the opportunity to assist you.

*- John P. Toale, Jr.*

## Memorial Day Activities

On Saturday, May 29th, the Friends of Woodlawn will coordinate the Flagging of the Graves. Volunteers will place flags on all the graves of the men and women who served our nation. After the graves are decorated, volunteers gather for a picnic at the Jerome Avenue Gate House. Flagging begins at 9 a.m. and the picnic will be at 12:30 p.m.

The Woodlawn Cemetery did not keep a roster of Veterans in our care until recent years. If you know of an individual in our care whose grave should be marked with a flag call the Friends Office at (718) 920-1470. The name of the Veteran will be placed on our roster and they will receive a flag annually on Memorial Day. There is no charge for this service.

If you would like to volunteer to help place flags, call the Friends Office at (718) 920-1470. Volunteers will work in pairs and will be assigned to plots and given maps and instructions.

