



CAO

Cemetery Association of Oregon

Serving All Cemeteries in Oregon

Summer Newsletter

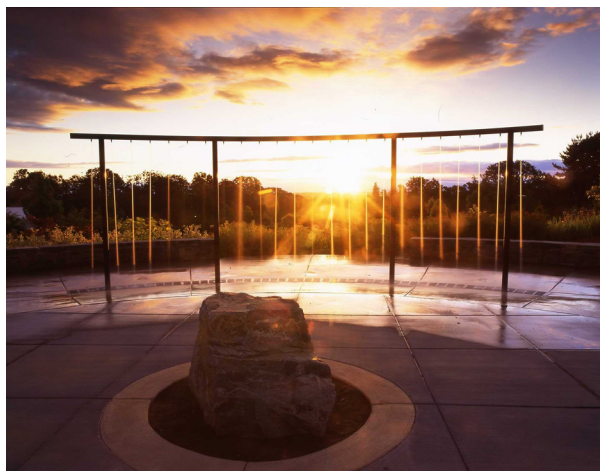
2017

Dear Members,

We are excitedly approaching our annual conference and banquet at The Oregon Garden on September 28th, with a welcome reception the evening of September 27th. The theme is "Risk Management and Disaster Preparedness." Speakers will address cemeteries' roles in creating a plan in anticipation of a disaster. Are you prepared for the care of your grounds and a sudden influx of burials and cremations should a catastrophic event occur (such as an earthquake)? Do you already have a written plan you would be willing to share with members? We encourage you to attend this important conference so you can learn more from each other on how to devise or revise your plan.

We have negotiated a discounted rate of \$109 per night for conference attendees. Please reserve your room **before August 11th** at www.oregongardenresort.com and use code CEMETERY to lock in this discount. Or you may call 503-874-2500 Ext. 0, to make reservations.

We understand many cemeteries may have financial constraints. In the past, CAO has pledged to waive the conference fee (not included: meals, lodging, other events) to historic Oregon cemeteries who are experiencing financial hardship. You have an historic cemetery if your cemetery has at least one burial of a person who died before February 14, 1909. Make sure to mark this on your registration form with the name and date of burial of the decedent in your cemetery to qualify for consideration.



Please visit our website, www.OregonCemeteries.com to view conference information and check back frequently for updates. As always, we would like to promote accomplishments and achievements (or even some fun facts) about your cemetery. Please email us at cemeteryassociationoforegon@gmail.com with any articles or announcements so that we may share your news with the world on Facebook and in future newsletters.

We look forward to seeing you in September!

Sincerely,

Bob Huskey, President
Cemetery Association of Oregon

Legislative Corner

By Ty Cochran

SB 5523

passed, effective July 1st, 2017

Limits biennial expenditures from fees, moneys or other revenues, including Miscellaneous Receipts, but excluding lottery funds and federal funds, collected or received by State Mortuary and Cemetery Board, Oregon Board of Naturopathic Medicine, Occupational Therapy Licensing Board, Board of Medical Imaging, State Board of Examiners for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology and Oregon State Veterinary Medical Examining Board

HB 2776

did not pass

Authorizes appointment of guardian for person with disability who is in need of guardianship. Requires guardian to enforce right of protected person who is person with disability to receive visitors, telephone calls, personal mail and electronic communications. Requires guardian of protected person who is person with disability to notify certain persons and entities of protected person's hospitalization, death, funeral arrangements and final resting place.

HB 2317

passed, effective May 18, 2017

Increases term for members of Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board from three years to four years. Changes requirements for certain Board members: one member must be a funeral service practitioner; one member a representative of immediate disposition company; one member a representative of licensed funeral establishment; one member each representing a for-profit cemetery, nonprofit cemetery, and either a city, county or special district owned or operated cemetery; and one member representing a crematorium or other facility for final disposition of human remains.

HB 2515

did not pass

Provides that historic cemeteries be accessible to persons conducting historical research.

Upcoming...

Death Talk Goes to the Movies

August 22 at Portland's Clinton Street Theater
See DeathTalkProject.com

Cemetery Association of Oregon

Annual Conference
September 27-28, 2017
www.OregonCemeteries.com

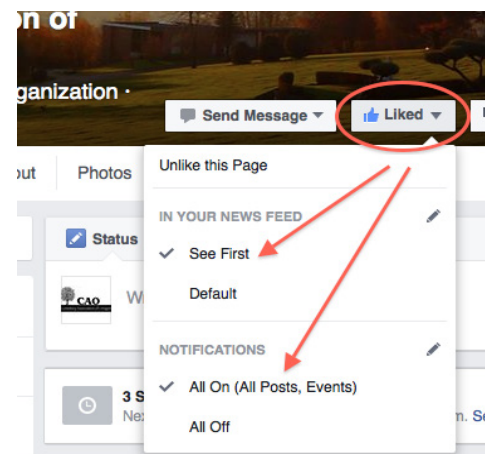
Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board

Board Meeting, August 11
off-site

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Industry Profile: Doug Ferrin

By Anna Mehrer



I sat down one rainy morning with Doug Ferrin, head of the Funeral Service Education program at Mt. Hood Community College, to learn more about the program. He apologized upfront for any interruptions that might happen, since his students were taking the National Board Examination that day and were notifying him of their status.

MHCC's Funeral Service Education program is accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE). Doug Ferrin has been teaching at Mt. Hood Community College since 1998. He worked in the field from 1993 – 1997 as a Funeral Director and Embalmer, after which he taught part time in Colorado, where he grew up. He has a background in science and art. His art days involved sculpture in clay and wood, which led to an interest in restorations and eventually,

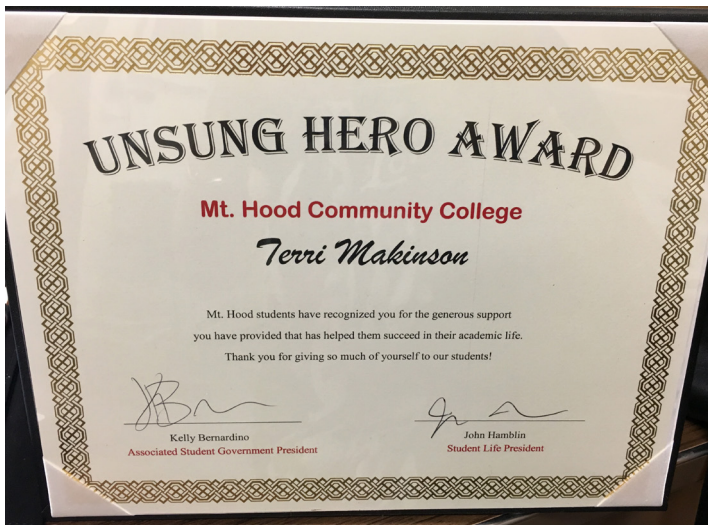
the embalming process. The combination of business, psychology, and science were appealing to him. He says one of the challenging aspects of the job is corralling students. Sixteen students graduated this year, with the largest class having graduated was 31. Most have jobs when they graduate. The National Board exam is applicable to all states, but each state has individually governing laws regarding funeral services.

One of the processes he teaches, together with part-time instructor, Terri Makinson, is alkaline hydrolysis – a new “biocremation” method. Though it is still not legal in some states, it is in Oregon. He says apprenticeships are the best way to learn about the industry and to eventually land a full-time job, so students are required to intern at funeral homes and cemeteries to learn more



about the practical aspects of the profession. Internship placements are all over the Northwest with Eugene being the farthest placement so far. I asked if he had any recommended reading for prospective students. He said that the best thing to do is get experience in the field, but as far as insightful writings, he recommended “The Whole Death Catalog” by Harold Schechter. He said that while some details are not necessarily accurate, overall it is very good. “Stiff: The Curious Lives of Human Cadavers” by Mary Roach is also an enlightening read.

His favorite cemetery in Oregon? He is very fond of Forest Lawn, Lone Fir and a little cemetery by the gas station near the college.





Congratulations!

Mt. Hood Community College
 Funeral Service Education
 Class of 2017

Back Row (from left): Jordan Schurman, Terri Makinson, Carissa Rill, Dani Davis, Grant Bollman, Dominique Gomes, Shelby Blencourt, Kate Huddleston, Anna DeLong, Doug Ferrin.
Front Row (from left): Shealee Keller, Jessica Jones, Trish Lockhart, Krystal Rose, Katie Super, Kristina Selph, Joelle Rupp, Brooke Nullemeier, Clayton Hoffman

Cemetery Tour: Veterans Home of California



Guest article by Robert Yocum (edited)
Photography by Anna Mehrer

It was the Society of Mexican War Veterans (1845-48) that first proposed a veterans home in California and in 1870, the California legislature passed a bill pro-

viding a plot of land in San Francisco for a veterans home. The Mexican War Veterans were not organized well enough to raise the funds necessary to build a home. (Meanwhile, gold was discovered in 1848 at Sutter's Mill in Coloma, California.) Veterans of the G. A. R. (Grand Army of the Republic - the Union Army in

the Civil War), were one of the most powerful political groups in the country at the time. Many veterans were amputees, disabled, suffering from the effects of war time diseases, and indigent. It was customary for local governments to sell the bodies of indigents for medical research or to bury them in paupers' graves. The G. A. R. got congress to pass legislation making those customs illegal. It became a legal requirement to treat veterans with respect and honor even in death.

In 1880, Colonel James J. Lyon, a Union Army Veteran of the Civil War, proposed that the Lincoln Post of the G. A. R. take title to the San Francisco site and build a veterans home. A major fundraising effort began on Thanksgiving weekend in 1881.



Eagle Scouts project, May 2017

During the next two years, \$60,000 was raised for construction. The San Francisco site was sold when it was determined that it was an inappropriate site for the home, and a search committee chose the site in Yountville. On October 24, 1882 the group paid \$17,500 for 910 acres of land - a working farm - that was part of Salvador Vallejo's Napa Rancho. The first building was completed in 1883, but a lack of funding delayed the opening until April 1, 1884. The opening was to have been on April 16th, the anniversary of the signing at Appomattox that ended the Civil War, but was moved up to accommodate the first 13 veterans who showed up early.

One of those 13 veterans, John C. Wood, was the first to be buried at the home on July 18, 1884. The site of the first cemetery was below the current site of the chapel. There were 138 burials in that first cemetery, but the ground was swampy in winter and a new cemetery was established at the current location in



1892. In 1896 the remains of those 138 early burials were re-interred in the new cemetery.

Though privately owned by "The Veterans Home Association, a non-profit corporation", the home received funding from both the state and federal government.

In 1896, the federal

government ended funding to privately-operated soldiers homes. To avoid losing badly needed federal funds, the Association sold the home to the State of California for a single \$20 gold piece. The name was changed to "The Veterans Home of California".

When the state took control, there were 800 members at the home. The home had 55 buildings, was a successful farm with a dairy herd, hog farm, chicken ranch, fruit orchards and crop land. The members of the home worked the farm which provided food for the home and an income to help offset some of the home expenses.

April 25 - August 12, 1898 Spanish-American War

Nearly all of the original organizational documents of the home were lost when the San Francisco office of the Veterans Home Association was destroyed by the 1906 earthquake and fire. During the next two decades, under state ownership, the home deteriorated.



*Want to have your cemetery featured?
Let us know by emailing anna@orderorder.net.*

rated. Buildings were crowded, poorly heated, lacked adequate sanitation, and suffered from deferred maintenance. Change was badly needed.

1914-1918 World War I

In 1919, Colonel Nelson M. Holderman was appointed Commandant of the home. Holderman was the most highly decorated veteran of World War I, having been awarded the Medal of Honor, Silver Star, three Purple Hearts, and national honors from France, Italy and Belgium. During his first two years he proposed major changes, new programs and buildings. Civil War veterans still controlled the home and resisted change. Rather than a confrontation with the old-timers, Holderman resigned,

but promised to return. Colonel Holderman returned in 1926 and was reappointed Commandant, a position he held until his death in 1953. He and his Chief Engineer, Cleve Borman, created a master plan for the home. His success at lobbying the state for funds owed much to his



personal prestige. Magazines, newspapers and radio found Colonel Holderman a good story and he used his fame as a national hero to get what he needed for the home. One of his crowning achievements was the 500-bed hospital which was named in his honor.

During the excavation for the foundation of the hospital in the 1930s, the remains of five individuals, in different stages of decomposition, were uncovered. Four of the remains were described as “mostly bones”, but one set of remains was described as being mostly intact and dressed in a uniform that resembles a Civil War uniform. The remains of these five were re-interred in the cemetery with a monument honoring all unknown soldiers - “whose final resting place is known but to God”. This “Tomb of Unknown Soldiers”

is believed to be the first of its kind in the world.

1929 - 1941 The Great Depression

1941 - 1945 World War II (US involvement)

1950 - 1953 Korean War

1950 - 1961 US Military advisors serving in Vietnam

In the early 1950s it became more difficult to dig graves in the cemetery as the soil contained a layer of granite, near the surface, which had to be dynamited. The last burial was John Caldwell in 1953. In 1955 the cemetery was officially closed. Lack of funding for maintenance left the cemetery overgrown with weeds. Trees in the cemetery fell or lost limbs, knocking down grave monuments under them. Other grave monuments leaned or fell from settling soil. A chaplain of the time refused to hold Memorial Day services at the cemetery because he felt that it was inappropriate, as the veterans buried there had not died in war, but as residents of the home.

1961 - 1975 Vietnam War

In the 1970s the home faced another financial crisis. Decreased funding was having a degrading effect on facilities and staff to the point that the future of the home was questioned. The California Department of Health Services and federal Department of Health, Education and Welfare were both threatening to withdraw certification from the home. The California legislature approved a \$100 million renovation master plan.

1990 - 1991 Persian Gulf War - Desert Storm

In 1997 efforts were made to restore and reactivate the cemetery for interment of the cremated remains of home members. California Department of Veterans Affairs and the Veterans Administration in Washington provide a death benefit for veterans and those funds were used to partially maintain the cemetery. The cemetery became active again. The first recent burial was for John Carter, former Allied Council Chairman, whose cremated remains were interred on Memorial Day of 1997. AMVETS, VFW, DAV, The American Legion, California Conservation Corps, CDF, and many other groups including Boy Scout troops, and local service clubs such as Rotary and Kiwanis have volunteered to help maintain the cemetery. The weeds were cut, an irrigation system was installed and grass was seeded. Grave markers have been pressure washed and straightened - or in some cases replaced.

The roads and parking lot were paved. A local Vietnam Veterans group holds a watch fire at the cemetery on Memorial Day weekend and Boy Scouts place flags next to each headstone. There are more than 6,000 graves in the cemetery. It has the largest group of Spanish American War veterans in the nation. It has never been racially segregated, which is very unusual for a cemetery dating to this period. I have been unable to ascertain with certainty that there are Confederate veterans buried in the cemetery.

2001 - today War in Iraq & Afghanistan

Retired Navy Commander Marcella McCormack became Administrator of the home in late 1999. She has been a tireless champion of the home as it entered the 21st century. Under her administration, the home opened a \$16 million memory care center which houses 75 veterans suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's disease in a refurbished F. D. Roosevelt Annex. The 7,000-square-foot hospital recreation area received a \$2 Million restoration. McKinley Hall and Eisenhower Hall have been rebuilt as "Assisted Care" facilities. The kitchens and Dining Room areas and the Lincoln Member Services Building have been rebuilt as modern facilities. The Lincoln Theater was completely restored. The baseball diamond, swimming pool and the golf course, which are also used by the public, have been built or refurbished. Much more has been done to the mechanical plant with water treatment, sewage, the reservoir and grounds receiving attention. Recycled water is being used for irrigation and to water the golf course. More needs to be done, but Commander Marcella McCormack ranks with Colonel Nelson Holderman in preparing the Veterans Home for the future.

In 2008, The Pathway Home opened as a first-of-its-kind program to help treat mental health conditions - including post-traumatic stress and traumatic mental injuries - for veterans of Iraq and Afghanistan combat zones to readjust to civilian life. The home allows the use of facilities to the Pathway Home, which is privately funded, no federal or State funds are available. Today - There is a nationwide shortage of qualified nurses. Facilities that do not offer the highest pay or best conditions (or are located in areas where the cost of living is high) are going to have trouble attracting and retaining the most qualified workers, including nurses and doctors. These conditions affect the Veterans Home.



Visit from a deer, May 2017

In its 133-year history, this has been the home of approximately 64,000 veterans. Today, around 200 of the 1,100 members of the home are women - 75% veterans and the balance being spouses of veterans. Member veterans from World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Desert Storm, and the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan are currently living at the home. This has been a place of sanctuary for veterans of every American conflict except the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. There are four Medal of Honor veterans buried in the cemetery. Medal of Honor Master Sgt. Alejandro Ruiz of WWII is the most recent burial in 2009.



Thank You To Our Members

Bay City IOOF Cemetery
 Belcrest Memorial Park
 Bethany Pioneer Cemetery
 Brightview Landscapes
 Bronzecraft Memorials
 Buxton Cemetery Association
 Cemetery Services
 City of Hillsboro
 City of Pendleton
 City View Cemetery
 Coldspring
 Columbia Memorial Gardens
 Congregation Beth Israel Cemetery
 Crescent Grove Cemetery & Mausoleum
 Dallas Cemetery District # 4
 Eagle Valley Cemetery
 Eureka Cemetery
 Evergreen Memorial Park
 Fir Lawn Memorial Park
 Forest Lawn Cemetery

Franklin Butte Masonic Cemetery
 Gibbs Cemetery
 Greenwood Cemetery
 Hermiston Cemetery District
 Hillcrest Memorial Park
 Hilltop Memorial Cemetery
 Idlewilde Cemetery
 Ironside Cemetery District
 Island City Cemetery Maintenance District
 Jordan Valley Cemetery District
 La Grande Cemetery Maintenance District
 Lincoln Memorial Park Cemetery
 Lund Cemeteries Inc
 Memory Gardens Memorial Park
 Musgroves
 Oak Hill Cemetery
 Odd Fellows Cemetery Association
 of Corvallis
 OM Stone
 Oregon Wilbert
 Paul's Cemetery Service

PermaProducts
 Pine Grove Butte Cemetery
 Pleasant Hill Cemetery Association
 Premier Memorial
 Quiring
 Rainier Cemetery District
 River View Cemetery Association of Portland
 Rogue River Cemetery
 Roseburg Memorial Gardens
 Skyline Memorial Gardens
 St. Anthony Cemetery
 St. Boniface Cemetery
 St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery
 Sunset Hills Memorial Park
 Valley View Cemetery
 Vantage Products
 West Lawn Memorial Park
 Westside Community Cemetery
 Yamhill-Carlton Pioneer Memorial
 Cemetery Association

Masonic Cemetery in Canyonville, Oregon

Do you know this cemetery? If so, please talk to them about the benefits of membership!



Photos: Anna Mehrer