



# MEMORIAL DAY 2019

## Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery



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www.highlandmemorygardens.com

### Welcome Friends & Visitors!

*The Board of Directors and staff at Highland Memory Gardens welcomes all lot owner families and visitors to these memorial gardens. Our staff and volunteers have worked many long hours to prepare for this special weekend. We ask that you respect this cemetery and the tributes which have been left behind honoring loved ones.*



#### Avenue of Flags

Our "Avenue of Flags" is a dramatic display of 5-ft by 9½-ft ceremonial veteran burial flags, placed every 25-feet on both sides of the cemetery streets extending more than two miles. The flags are donated by veteran families. The veteran's name is stenciled on the flag edge. Highland Park Post #374 of the American Legion stores and maintains the flags. The flags are flown from Saturday morning until Monday evening.

#### Honoring Our Veterans



Every known veteran is honored by an individual flag holder, personally placed by cemetery staff and volunteers on more than 3,500 graves. Volunteers working with Highland Park Post #374 of the American Legion place the individual flags. If your veteran does not have a flag, please contact the cemetery office. If they are not currently on our list of veterans, we will add them. Copies of honorable discharge papers may be requested.

#### Join Us for our Annual Memorial Day Program

Our Annual Memorial Day service will be held in front of the Tower at 9:00 a.m. Monday, May 27th followed by refreshments served near the Tower. This annual event is presented jointly by the Highland Park Post #374 of the American Legion and Highland Memory Gardens. All veterans buried in Highland Memory Gardens since Memorial Day 2018 will have their names read as part of the ceremonies. Come to hear the bagpiper, who will pipe beginning at 8:30 a.m.

In case of inclement weather, an email will be sent out to our email group members. We also will notify WHO Radio, KCCI TV and WHO TV.

#### New Faces Around HMG



**Tosha Edmundson, Administrative Office Coordinator**  
Tosha joined HMG in July of 2018 and began her duties as Administrative Office Coordinator March 15. Tosha studied graphic design at DMACC in Ankeny and later earned two bachelor's degrees, one in marketing and the other in management, from Iowa State University.

#### Julie Baker, Administrative Assistant

Julie came to HMG in April 2019. Her outgoing personality and attention to detail is a great asset to our office. Julie's professional background includes working as an accountant, doing payroll and tax accounting.



#### Helpful Information:

- Download our free app "Highland Memory Gardens" (Apple Store or Google Play Store) to find the locations of your loved one's grave.
- Visit our office during business hours for maps of burial locations.
- Waste receptacles are available for each garden.
- Water faucets are colored blue and can be found in each garden.
- Silk floral bouquets may be purchased in the cemetery office.

#### Restroom Facilities Available:

For your convenience, portable restroom units have been placed just east of the cemetery office for visitors to use at all times during the Memorial Day Weekend.

#### Office Hours During Memorial Day Weekend:

Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Friday: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Sunday: 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Monday: 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

## Memorial Day Facts

- Established as "Decoration Day"
- on May 5, 1868, three years after the Civil War, to be observed on May 30th each year to honor men and women who had died while serving in the U.S. military. May 30th was chosen for the commemoration of Decoration Day because it wasn't the anniversary of any particular battle.
- The date was also chosen because flowers would be in bloom all over the country. First observance held at Arlington National Cemetery where 20,000 Union and Confederate soldiers were buried. Approximately 5,000 people gathered to decorate the graves that first year. Originally, Decoration Day was in memory of those who died in the Civil War. Following World War I, that day was expanded to honor all who have died in American wars.
- In 1968 Congress declared Memorial Day a federal holiday and established it to be celebrated on the last Monday in May.
- National Moment of Remembrance (signed into law in December 2000) is to take place each Memorial Day at 3:00 p.m. local time.
- On Memorial Day, the flag is to be flown half-staff from sunrise until noon, then briskly raised to the top until sunset. At sunrise, the flag should be briskly run up to the top of the staff before being lowered slowly to the half-staff position.

## Pre-Need Seminars

As a lot owner here at Highland Memory Gardens or as a visitor to our Gardens, you may have already taken the first steps in securing your future funeral and burial needs. If so, CONGRATULATIONS!

For many people, this can be a fearful step into unknown territory. Many questions come to mind, such as: Where do I begin? Should I call a funeral home or a cemetery? Do I want to be buried in a casket? Do I want to be cremated? If I am cremated, can I be buried? Do I have to be buried in the ground? Are a funeral home and cemetery really necessary?

We have developed a pre-need presentation entitled, "**Pre-planning: Where Do I Begin?**" This is a general presentation giving guidelines for beginning the pre-plan process. This program is applicable to all funeral homes and cemeteries; however, of course, we will use HMG as a reference when speaking of private cemetery needs. While we would hope everyone would choose Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery, this presentation is for general information, not solicitation. Our purpose is to encourage people to pre-plan for their future needs - no matter which funeral home or cemetery they choose.

If this information would benefit your church group, club, senior group, etc., please contact Jan Shawver, Family Services Representative for more details and to schedule a time for us to meet with your group.

Remember, pre-planning allows YOU to determine how you will be remembered and it is a gift to your family...relieving them of the burden of making difficult decisions in the midst of grief.

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## Concrete vs. Granite foundations

For many years our lot owners had a choice when it came to the foundation under their bronze memorials: concrete or granite.

In 2000, the board of directors determined that concrete foundations would no longer be offered due to the fact that concrete tends to crack or break - especially when there is a "weak spot" caused by the hole allotted for the permanent bronze vase. Broken concrete occasionally results in damage to the bronze memorial.

While we no longer sell the concrete foundations, some remain in our gardens that are cracked or in disrepair. Unfortunately, concrete is not covered under our perpetual care policy; therefore the replacement of the broken foundation ultimately falls to the family of the deceased.

If you have a family member buried at HMG whose memorial is on a concrete foundation, you may wish to consider a "Granite Reload" through a special program for those with concrete foundations. We offer multiple colors of granite at a reduced price.

The greatest advantage to having a granite foundation is that the granite as well as the bronze will be covered under perpetual care.

## Yearly Cleanup Schedule

**Memorial Day Cleanup:** Monday, June 3, 2019 - all items not in permanent vases will be removed and discarded. Items in permanent vases will remain to beautify our gardens until the fall cleanup.

**Fall Cleanup:** 1st Monday in October - Monday, October 7, 2019. All permanent vases will be put into the ground for the winter. All decorations will be removed and discarded. Reminder: No vase use is permitted during the winter.

**Spring Cleanup:** 1st Monday in March, weather permitting - or 1st day when ground is thawed so wreath stands can be removed.

**Cleanup Notifications:** If you would like to receive a reminder of our cleanup days, please send your email to our office at [info@highlandmemorygardens.com](mailto:info@highlandmemorygardens.com). You will be added to our list and will be notified prior to cleanup days.