



*Franklin Cemetery Association
Historic Franklin Cemetery, 1827*

Annual Dinner and Business Meeting

Wednesday, May 14, 2026

Fellowship and Dinner - 6:00 p.m.

Business meeting - 7:00 p.m.

Franklin Community Church

26425 Wellington, Franklin

We invite you to join us for our Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner in the Franklin Church Social Hall. The Association will provide a baked ham entrée. Please bring a dish to pass if you are able; if not, please feel free to join us anyway. Our annual "get-together" is a great time to reconnect with old friends and make new ones, all with a connection to our beautiful cemetery. We look forward to this unique opportunity for fellowship as we conduct the business at hand.

Annual dues are \$100 to help offset our Cemetery's operating expenses as described in the accompanying article. Your memberships and any additional donations are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law. We hope to have 100% participation this year for this nominal contribution. Member families who wish to become Voting Members of the Association and eligible to vote at the Annual Meeting are defined in our By-Laws as "grave owners and members of their families who have paid the annual dues. Each family shall constitute one member and shall be entitled a single vote at membership meetings." Please send your check for \$100 payable to the Franklin Cemetery Association to the address above, or you may pay at the door the night of the meeting. Please be assured everyone is welcome to attend the Annual Meeting, whether you are a voting member or not. We appreciate your support.

**Franklin Cemetery Association
Membership Dues Form
Dues are \$100 per year**

Name _____

Street address _____

City/State/Zip Code _____

Phone number _____

Email _____

Amount of check _____

Membership dues are used for cemetery maintenance. Everyone who has a gravesite in use, or to be used is automatically a member. Please send your check of \$100 to: Franklin Cemetery Association, Box 250638, Franklin, MI, 48025-0638.

Administrator's Report

2025 Year in Review

The Franklin Cemetery had another successful year. We sold 34 graves and performed 17 burials. We have a contract for the sale of 20 graves in 2026.

One of the major promises made by the board when we increased the annual dues and required them as a stipulation for purchasing graves in the Cemetery was clear use of the funds to improve the Cemetery from a long period of deferred maintenance and other aspects of what it means to offer perpetual care. To that end we have done the following:

1. Completely resurfaced the roads in the Cemetery
2. Repaired the historic sections of the fence.
3. Added new traditional fencing along both Scenic Drive and Franklin Road and Drummond Ct.
4. Undertook major tree trimming and repair to save our historic trees
5. Began repairing and reconditioning our oldest grave markers that had fallen into disrepair. To date we have undertaken this work with some 150 markers
6. Turned the old unused Potter's Field behind the work/storage house into a beautiful Memorial Garden for the interring of cremains...extending the functional life of the Cemetery.

There is still more to do:

1. Replace the last of the chain-link fencing along the north end of the property facing Franklin Road with traditional wrought iron fencing.
2. Paint the historic fencing to match the new fencing
3. Continue to repair and recondition damaged grave markers
4. Plant trees to replace the trees we are losing to age and disease.

The ability to do these projects rely on the continued positive response to paying the annual dues. As gratifying as the response is, we still only collect about 70 % of the dues that are owed. The ability to do as much as we have been able to do has come from the wonderful generosity of about 40 members of the Cemetery who regularly pay in the enhanced dues categories of "Silver", "Gold" and "Platinum". And those who donate above even that in memorials to loved one's buried at the Cemetery. Thank you. Please be aware that late payments on dues may be required before burial.

Finally, Andy Broder, our Trustee of the Cemetery Trust Fund, and Mark Rodgers, our professional investment advisor have done a wonderful job of managing our perpetual care fund. Despite the challenges of the last few years in the financial market, they have kept our funds near the historic highs, actually pass the \$1Million mark.

The Cemetery is in great shape and is in excellent condition to face the future with confidence. The Board of Director's deserve a huge vote of appreciation for the foresight, excellent decision-making, dedication and hard work in bringing the Cemetery to its best conditions in the history of the Cemetery.

Steve Bancroft



ADMINISTRATOR'S CORNER

I recently had a resident of Franklin buy some graves, which is not unusual. However, they told me that they had been questioning whether to buy graves in the cemetery. Their decision came

about as they have watched the cemetery repair the damaged and broken grave stones. That is an important consideration, because we promise in our Certificates of Burial Rights to provide perpetual care for graves that are under the cemetery's care, once they are fully used. We are being very faithful to that obligation, and it is gratifying that people are seeing the results.

I want to thank the Board of Directors for being strongly committed to this obligation. In addition, I want to thank the members of the Franklin Cemetery Association who are faithful in paying their dues, that has allowed us to undertake these obligations. Particularly, I want to thank the people who have given generously beyond the annual dues. We are ahead of schedule to get the most needful work done. We have repaired over 200 markers, but we still have hundreds to do.

Unfortunately, we are losing major trees due to age and disease. We just loss our largest tree to Dutch Elm disease. The cost of removal of these kinds of trees is quite expensive, but trying to replace them with more mature trees, thatwill match their grandeur more quickly, is also expensive.

We will stay the course and make our cemetery a byword for beauty and serenity.

Steve Bancroft

ALERT!

DUES ARE DUE BY THE ANNUAL MEETING IN MAY. PAY-
MENT OF UNPAID DUES MAY BE REQUIRED AT TIME OF
BURIAL.





Active Military Service Members

Every year at our annual Memorial Day Service we seek to recognize family members of the Members of the FCA who presently serve in our armed forces. Please transmit names of your family members who are presently serving to Steve Bancroft (franklincemetery@outlook.com or 248-200-9493) by May 1, so they can be recognized in our Memorial Day Service.

Please join us for the

Memorial Day Service

Monday, May 25, 2026

11:00 a.m.

Franklin Cemetery

Please bring your own lawn chairs



Memorial Day Service

The annual Memorial Day Service will take place at 11:00 am, Monday, May 5, 2026, at the Cemetery. The last two years' services have been well attended and added some new touches: a canvass pavilion and relocation of seating, a Bar-B-Q caterer, with people staying for pinicking and the return of live music. All that will continue this year. This year's speaker is Steve Bancroft, our Cemetery Administrator, who was an Army Chaplain. His talk will be, "Memorial Day Through the Eyes of a Military Chaplain". Bring lawn chairs, blankets and invite friends to what will be a special occasion.



**THANKS VERY MUCH TO OUR DONORS THIS PAST YEAR.
WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS.**

Mitch & Janine Albom, Chris Altmansbeger, Christine Ambrose, Elane Andris, Anthony Averbuch, Anna Baker, Camil Banciu, Judd Bankert, Stephen Bean & Condine Nicholson, David Beebe, Robert Bednas, Nancy Berkesch, Yvonne Blake, Andrew & Beth Blank, David & Carolyn Blatt, The Bittering Family, Carolyne & David Blatt, Carol Borthwick, Michael & Eva Brassfield, Anne Bredouw, Jeffrey Briggs, Thomas Briggs, Betty Bright, Anne Broughton, reginald Butler, John & Martha Cannis, Patricia Casenhiser, Konstsantine & Cynthia Collias, Laurel Collins, Blaine Cowick, Susan Davis, John & Mary Damanskas, John Deforest, Linda Demaro, Pamela Deneau, Lee Di Maio, Laurel Earles, Stephen Economy, Elias & Frances Eliades, Emmerling Family, Stephen Ernst, Nancy Ervin, Facer Family Trust, Lance Fisher, Nancy Folk, & Rita Forrest, Mark & Leslie Frick, Janet Francis, Rebecca Gale, The Gavras Family, The Georeson Family, Dominic Gillette, Angela Giorkiewicz, Heidemarie Godoy, Steven & Eva Goren, Joseph & Antonia Grinnan, The Grob Family, F.P. Halacka, Anne & Tom Hampson, Jame Hampson, Isabel Hanson, Byron Hanson, Janet & Lloyd Hanson, Sigrid Hard, Tom Heft, Tim Herzler, Judy Hicks, Julie Hiotaky, William Hiotaky, Fred Hirschmann, Robert Hoge, William Holmes, Bonnie & David Hough, Otto Hugi, Diana Jacobs, Jeffrey & Sally Johnson, Nancy Johnston, Richard Johnston, Carol Jordan, Angela Karris, Hsiao Ping & Martin Katz, Louise Kawecki, Karen Kearns, Kerry Keeler, The Keros Family, Rita Kerr, Lois Koning, Diane Lake, Katherine Lane, Michael Lammy, Paul Lazaros, Kenneth Letherwood, Tom & Michelle Mader, Jean & Roger Maggid, Wm Marsh, George Matheos, Brian Marx, Douglas McDermott, Tom & Peggy McDermott, Linda Mc Keon, Allen & Penny Miller, Shirley Miller, Gary Mitts, Constance Moore, Bonnie Moulik, Linda & Eric Novak, Esther Pamel, Bill Pickering, Catherine Pikulas, Mary Ann Pikulas, David & Jean Poole, Jane Polan, Dave & Donna Price, Brad Purcell, Carol Ragan, John & Victoria Ratola, Nancy Redner, Maureen Rich, James & Janest Rivard, Gary Roberts, Lynn Ann Ruhlman, George Ryder, Carol Sammut, James Sampson, Andrew & Susan Saxe, Richard & Nancy Schein, Barbara Schoenith, Schwartz Trust, Robert Shand, Nancy Sheffield, Betty Sherline, Barbara Shires, Barry Silvermen, Aspacia Spanos, Kay Stauff, Basil Stavropoulos, Mark Stavropoulos, Sung K Soh, Vicky Talmers, James & Anita Terry, James Thomas, Julie Thomas, Marjorie Thomas, Chris Theodoran, Doris Tong Trust, Jeffrey & Debbie Van Every, Patricia Watters & Mark Joss, James Walters, Willem Weertman, Paul Wertz, Robert Whelan, Gloria Willer & Carol Seeber, Kenneth & Jean Yeasting, Wendy Zabel, Brian & Karen Zech, Vance Zanardelli, Ralph Zebonia, Mark Ziessow.

Silver Dues	Gold Dues	Platinum Dues
Ruth Aaron, Gretel Braidwood, Sharon Butler, Maria, Elsie Breckwoldt, Nancy Brewer, The Calmidis-Goren Family, Angela Cosa, Demery Family, Steve and Judy Ernst, Rebecca Gale, Rebecca Griswold, David & Karen Halliday, Robert & Paula Hampson, Janet Hentschel, Dean & Olga Houtalas, Sally Jordan, Robert Kreger, Robert Moreas, Iris Ouyang, Lovina Peddie, Judy Meade Roberts, Barbara Schoenith, Karen Sherline David & Kathie Sherman, Josette Silver, Alice Smatsky, Ted Spicer, James Stewart, Charlotte Tharp, Marjorie Thomas, Gail Warren	Andrew Blank Sharon Butler The Cohen Family The Cosson/Demery Family Albert Evans Alan & Ann Frank Rebecca Gale, George Hambalgo Hutter, Najarian & Sanjian Families Mary MacNee Lewis Moorman Iris Ouyang Margaret Raben	David Botsford Peter & Marilyn Greene Gregory & Judith Horrigan James Plastow

Tribute and Memorial Donations

Gretel Braidwood in memory of Robert & Linda Braidwood, Irma & Don Hunter; Patrick and Cynthia Crosson, Thomas & Carol Demery, Jason Demery, in Memory of their parents Thomas & Beck Demery; Susan Davis, in Memory of Doug Davis; Joan Dillon, in Memory of Alex & Anna Lesko; Alfred Evans, in Memory of Annette Evans; Peter & Marilyn Green, in Memory of Marcia & Ed Green; Judy Horrigan, in Memory of Elizabeth, Donald & Nicholas Rosiello; Anne and Tom Hampson in Memory of their parents Frank & Martha Cowick and Robert & Sadie Hampson; Janet Hentchel in Memory of Mary Adams, Beryl Lewis and Elis LeMyre; Angela Karris, in Memory of Gregory Karris; Douglas McDermott, in Memory of Thomas McDermott; James & Isabel Plastow, in Memory of Zack Plastow; Karen Sherline, in Memory of Howard Sherline; Alice Smatsky, in Memory of Phyllis, Frank & Alan Young; Gail Warren, in Memory of Jack Warren; Mark & Judy Ziessow, in Memory of Bernard & Madge Ziessow.



VETERANS BURIED IN OUR CEMETERY

The Franklin Cemetery takes great pride in recognizing veterans who are buried in our cemetery. However, we can only know if a person being buried is a veteran if we are informed of that information by the family. We have a sneaking suspicion that there are veterans buried in our Cemetery which we don't know of. Please, if you, as a family member are unsure if your loved one is on our list please contact Steve Bancroft at 248-200-9493 and check. Thanks



BRONZE FLAG HOLDERS FOR VETERANS

If you would like to purchase a bronze flag holder for your soldier, we would be happy to order it and place it on the grave(s) for you. Just complete the form below and return it with your tax-deductible donation of \$90.00 per flag holder payable to the *Franklin Cemetery Association* and note "Flag Fund" on the memo line. Mail it to the address at the top on this newsletter. We will place an order later in the year to take advantage of quantity discounts and to consolidate shipping charges. Franklin Boy Scout Troop #1699 places flags on all soldiers' graves before each Memorial Day.

FLAG HOLDER PURCHASE FORM

Send your check of \$90.00 to Franklin Cemetery Association, Box 250638, Franklin, MI 48025-0638

Your Name _____

Your Soldier's Name (s) _____

Branch of service _____

Do you wish to contribute for any soldier's marker _____

Flag holder requested: WWI___ WWII___ Korea___

Vietnam___ Peace Time___ Gulf War___

Afghanistan___

Or, you prefer flag holder representing branch of service above _____

***Should you have any questions, feel free to call us
Steve Bancroft at 248.200.9493 Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m.***

