



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In spite of the nation's slow-growing economy, plus the concerns about security and world peace that marked 2002, The Woodlawn Cemetery experienced a successful year of continued growth and improvement. I attribute this achievement to the leadership of our Board of Trustees, the dedicated work of our staff and the support of the families whom we are privileged to serve.

Of course, tumultuous times have never thwarted progress at Woodlawn. The cemetery was actually founded in 1863 during the most troubled times of the Civil War. During wartime people are especially concerned about memorialization and the resting places of their loved ones. When The Woodlawn Cemetery was established, the founders of the cemetery wanted to provide quality service and convenience for the people of the New York region. They established the 400-acre burial ground in a location that was "30 minutes from Manhattan" by train, making it easy for families to visit the cemetery and attend burial services.

As a company, we remain committed to serving our families in ways that provide comfort and convenience. In the fall, we will be "on line" with our new website. You will be able to get information about care of lots, the history of the cemetery, special events and programs and other services. The website will have directions, hours and a schedule of daily interments making it easier for friends and families to attend services.

During 2003, The Woodlawn Cemetery's 140th year, the long held traditions of perpetuity and memorialization will continue to flourish. We offer more services and product options to families than ever before. Our abilities to provide essential caring and compassion have been enhanced through an array of physical improvements and by a staff of talented people who are truly dedicated to human service. I believe Woodlawn's founders would be pleased.

There is always something new happening in our events, tours, and activities of the Friends of Woodlawn. We hope you will visit often.

In order to better serve those who visit the cemetery for the first time or need assistance in locating grave or crypt locations, the Business Office will be open for information and directions from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on the following holidays: Palm Sunday, April 13th; Easter, April 20th; Mother's Day, May 11th; Memorial Day, May 26th. The gates of the cemetery are open during the daytime every day of the year with the exceptions listed above. The office is closed on Sundays and Holidays.

About six months or so ago, I was approached by a writer wishing to do working research of the operations of a cemetery. The request was granted and Ben Sherwood worked with our grounds crews for a week. Ben has written an interesting account of his experience at Woodlawn which I hope you will enjoy.

The Annual Lot Owners' Meeting was held on February 18, 2003 in the Woolworth Chapel. James A. Edgar, Jr., Thomas L. Pulling and E. Thomas Williams, Jr. were elected as Trustees for three-year terms. The management presented the State of Woodlawn Report to those in attendance.

Next year's Lot Owners' Meeting will be February 17, 2004 and all Lot Owners are invited.

-- John P. Toale, Jr.