



# St. Joseph Cemetery & Holyhood Cemetery

## NEWS

Spring 2016

Volume Eight



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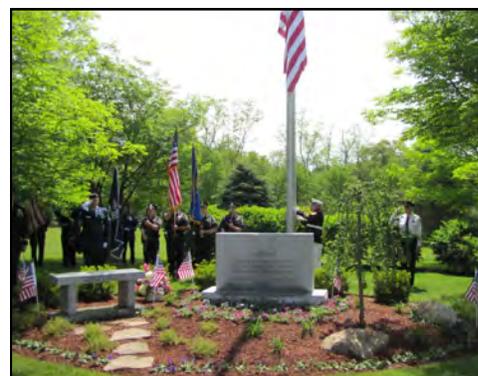
The Boston Department of Veterans' Services began an overhaul of the Memorial Day Flag Decorating Program in 2015. After conducting an internal audit of all graves they have found that some of the information they currently have is inaccurate.

In the past St. Joseph's Cemetery has directed customers to call the Veteran Services to have their family member's name placed on the Veteran Services list for flag placement. In an effort to help the Veterans Services correct the information they currently have we have been updating our cemetery software to include the names of all veterans buried at St. Joseph's Cemetery. Though a massive undertaking it is our hope that eventually we will be able to identify the graves of all the veterans located at St. Joseph's and provide this information to the Veteran Services in a format they can distribute to volunteers. In recent years, many of the Veteran's posts that took on this task have disbanded and no longer have the volunteers needed to keep up with the demand. New volunteers like the High School JROTC program pictured above have stepped in to keep

up the patriotic tradition in our country of placing a flag on the graves of deceased veterans. Every year thousands of flags are placed on Veterans graves in our cemeteries in preparation for Memorial Day.

To have your family member's name placed on the Veteran's Services list for flag placement, please stop by the office to be sure our records are updated and as always we have extra flags at the office in the event your family member was overlooked.

The Association is committed to keeping this very important long standing tradition at St. Joseph and Holyhood Cemeteries.



NEWS

## Letter from the President

Another productive year has passed and we look forward to 2016. The Board of Directors supported many projects and changes in 2015. Various policies and procedures were reviewed to better serve families through the daily operation of the cemetery. A review of our 2013 strategic plan for the Association indicates we are accomplishing our goals and objectives and keeping a strong commitment to the families we serve.

Fee schedules for 2016 will remain stable and the cost of graves will remain in the range of \$3,500 to \$6,000 based on location.

St. Joseph Cemetery has received several upgrades with the expansion of grave sites in various areas. The major projects for 2015 were the repair of two bridges that cross the Sawmill Brook. This was a costly repair but very necessary to provide safety for our visitors and access to all areas of the cemetery.

St. James crypt grave expansion project is underway and will be ready for new grave sales in the spring of 2016.

Holyhood Cemetery continues to hold its historic beauty. The request for cremation graves has increased

over the past year. As a result 300 new cremation graves were developed to blend with the historic setting of the Fitzpatrick Chapel and are available for purchase.

I want to thank all of you including our competent staff for your support and another successful year. We look forward to the New Year.

Sincerely,



George A. McLaughlin, III  
President

**Web Site**

*Information regarding our history, services, regulations, hours of operation, lot sales, genealogy, and directions, is available at*

**www.holyhood.com**

**Phone 617-327-1010**

**Fax 617-327-0526**

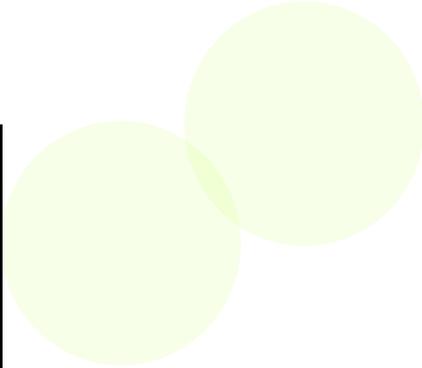
## Visiting the Cemetery in the Winter Months

The winter months at St. Joseph's and Holyhood Cemetery can be challenging. If you plan on visiting the cemetery during these months just finding the monument may become an impossible and dangerous task. As shown in the picture the names on the monument may not even be visible. The Cemetery makes every effort to plow and salt the roads but accessing the monument from the road may not be easy. The winter months are especially brutal on cemetery crews, who prepare for burials regardless of the weather.

The challenge does not stop when the temperatures warm as the freeze and thaw



process causes graves to sink. Cemetery crews spend the early Spring months addressing these issues and getting the grounds back to the condition our customers expect.



## Longtime Board Member Retires

Fred Davis will retire from the Board of Directors at Holyhood in 2016. Fred had a very distinguished career. He served in the United States Army Infantry as a young man. His endeavors throughout his career included Development Director, The Plummer Home; Executive Vice President and CEO of the Freedom Trail Foundation; President and CEO, MA Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Executive VP and CEO, Boys and Girls Club of Boston; Marketing Assistant/VP at State Street Bank.

Fred married in 1961 to his wife Phyllis and brought up three children: Christopher, Michael, and Beth. His favorite passion was helping young people get started in life. His



**Holyhood Cemetery Association BOD**

leadership in the Boys Club prompted many changes and eventually helped many boys and girls move forward in life and fulfill their dreams.

Fred Davis will be missed as a Board Member and we all wish him well.

## Crypt Grave Expansion



The St. James Crypt Grave project is complete. The new area will provide 140 new crypt graves. Each grave can accommodate 2 casket burials. Crypt graves have been a cost savings purchase for many families and loved ones in the past. The St. James the Apostle section of the cemetery has an excellent landscape. The new graves will be available for sale mid summer.

*“Find a Loved One”*

*feature is now available for St.*

*Joseph Cemetery*

*at*

*[www.holyhood.com](http://www.holyhood.com)*

## Cremation Burials at Holyhood

Cremation is a simpler process and offers more flexibility to families wishing to return to their family roots at Holyhood Cemetery. As a result a new cremation area was developed at Holyhood Cemetery. The area currently has approximately 300 gravesites available with the potential for 1,000 more in the future. The cremation area is located behind the Fitzpatrick Chapel and next to the historic stairs that lead to the Chapel. Field stone walls compliment the area and add to the historic appearance. These graves can be purchased for \$2,100 and allows you the right of burial for two urns and includes the



granite marker which can later be engraved by the family. If you have any interest please contact our office staff at 617-327-1010.

NEWS

# Memorial Day Mass



**Memorial Day St. Joseph Cemetery 2015**

*“The willingness of America’s veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude”*

*Jeff Miller*



**Monsignor Helmick, St. Theresa Avila**



**Patrick Stout, Bugler; Sarah Mitchell, Cantor; Brandon Santini, Organist**

The 2015 Memorial Day Celebration was a great event as usual. The 10 am Mass was attended by 1,000 participants from West Roxbury and the surrounding area. Monsignor William Helmick, pastor of St. Theresa’s Parish was the celebrant along with his dedicated staff.

In Holyhood Cemetery the 9 am annual Mass celebration brought an increased number of participants from the surrounding communities. The Mass was celebrated by Father Jack Ahern, Pastor of the Dorchester Tri-Parishes. The weather cooperated with a little light rain in the morning and then clearing in time for the 10 am Mass at St. Joseph’s.



**Memorial Day Holyhood Cemetery 2015**



**Taps at Holyhood Cemetery signals the end of Mass**

## William J Egan—September 29, 2015

William J Egan passed away on September 29, 2015 at the young age of 58. Billy had 40 years of service with our organization and with that a tremendous amount of historic knowledge. He grew up on the property. His father, Mike worked at the cemetery as a foreman and resided in the caretakers cottage with his family. Billy with pride would show us his sisters initials on the kitchen wall. This substantiated his long term commitment to the cemetery. Billy like his father worked as a foreman and backhoe operator. His calm and experienced approach to personal



and operational issues always prevailed. He treated each and every burial with dedication and respect. Billy was a true gentleman and will be missed by all.

## New Compact Excavator Purchased 2016

The Association purchased a new Kubota Compact Excavator in 2016. The smaller size of this Kubota Excavator allows us easy access into grave locations that were challenging with the older and larger models and will supplement our current inventory of equipment.



*The cemetery is a place for meditation and prayer, hallowed by symbols of our faith and our devotion in the memory of those who rest in eternal peace.*

## Maguire Chapel Landscape



**Maguire Chapel Niches**

Maguire Chapel landscape and pavement upgrades have commenced. The front section of the Chapel will be enhanced with granite curbing and colorful planting. The chapel provides a display of beautiful glass niches for cremation interments.



**St. Joseph Cemetery & Holyhood Cemetery**

990 LaGrange Street  
West Roxbury, MA 02132

Phone: 617-327-1010  
Fax: 617-327-0526

Website: [www.holyhood.com](http://www.holyhood.com)

**Office Hours**

Monday - Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am to 12:00 pm

The gates of the cemeteries are open  
7 days per week from 8:00 am to  
7:00 pm and in winter 8:00 am to  
5:00 pm

The Association continues to be financially strong and makes every attempt to provide families and loved ones with everyday quality service. The Board approved master plans and strategic plan create a clear vision for years to come. Cost effective procedures stabilize operational costs. This is very important but cannot be accomplished without the cooperation of a very dedicated staff and work force.

Our staff and Board of Directors thank our churches, families, monument dealers and funeral directors for their support and understanding throughout the year. We encourage you to follow our web page, call with requests or constructive suggestions.

Sincerely,

A. Thomas DeMaio,  
General Manager



*“The A-Team should consist of every employee of the cemetery, because we are only as strong as our weakest link” - John Toule*



**Holyhood Cemetery Association**

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