

Letter From The President



Keenan Knopke

As we look to the year ahead, I reflect on the events we will hold in our cemetery. Of all the events we host, those which honor our servicemen

and women hold a special place in our hearts. Gathering to pay homage to them means a lot to me personally as it does to all my staff as well, many of whom have been in the service themselves.

The first of these events is on March 30th - at our 4th annual service to remember deceased service dogs from Pinellas County Sheriff's Office and the Clearwater Police Department. This is an emotional event attended by law enforcement officers as well as K-9 service animals. The bond between them is apparent and deeply moving to witness.

On May 31st we will hold our 25th annual Memorial Day Service. Typically several hundred people join us to honor the many brave men and women who have and continue to so gallantly serve our country. We are fortunate to assemble some of the most respected community and religious leaders to speak at this beautiful event.

I hope you have the chance to join us at these important events. It is with sincere and great pride that we at Curlew Hills do all we can to support and honor our brave military and law enforcement citizens who give so much to us all.



In November, Curlew Hills proudly held its 22nd Annual Veteran's Day Services. The moving observance program was attended by nearly 300 guests. As tradition, the local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops placed the flags on veterans' graves prior to the event. Special guest speakers included Colonel Jerry Custin, USAF, Ret and State Representative Peter F. Nehr. The choir of St. Alfred's Episcopal Church entertained guests with rousing patriotic songs. Curlew Hills is proud to honor the many brave men and women who have and continue to so gallantly serve our country.

4th Annual Candlelight Service of Remembrance

In December, Curlew Hills Memory Gardens held its 4th Annual Candlelight Service of Remembrance. This service brings together those families who are remembering a loved one and gives them a chance to honor their memory at the holidays in a very special way. At the event families are invited to place a personalized ornament on the Christmas tree in the lobby. Lovely hand-painted ornaments were provided at no charge to all guests. Inspirational guest speakers further made the event more special. The evening ended with the ceremonial lighting of candles to remember our loved ones.

When someone close to us experiences the death of a loved one, we often say, "Call me if you need anything." But, chances are, they aren't going to



call you. Studies show it is much better to offer some specific and practical help to help get them through the difficult period. Here are some good examples.

Lend a hand around the house. There is so much to do after a death, but ordinary, practical help is always appreciated. Offer to do a load of laundry, mow the lawn or wash the dishes.

Assist with the children. Offering to take the children for a couple of hours could be very helpful to a family dealing with grief.

Run errands. There are usually dozens of errands that need to be done such as grocery shopping. Ask for a list or help prepare one.

Pick up out-of-town friends and relatives. Offer to make trips to the airport to pick up those who are arriving to attend the funeral.

Help with thank-you notes. If there is an outpouring of support, this task can seem daunting. You can purchase stationary and stamps or even help write the notes.

Source: AmericanHospice.org

The Quote Corner

"If you have knowledge let others light their candle from it."

Margaret Fuller



Tammy Mayfield

As a fifth generation Floridian, Tammy Mayfield takes great pride in knowing and loving this area.

She has been a Funeral Director with Curlew Hills for five years. Her passion for the funeral business began early in life with the tragic death of a child. It was then she knew she wanted to help people who have experienced a loss. It is this genuine understanding, caring and empathy that leads Tammy to keep in touch with families she has served even years after a service. She not only believes in what she does, but also in Curlew Hills itself as she often tells families that it's the most beautiful cemetery in the state.

In her free time, Tammy loves having adventures with her two teenage daughters and husband of 21 years, Kurt. She also enjoys reading and kiaking.



Established in 1979, Curlew Hills Memory Gardens is an independent, family-owned funeral home & cemetery.