



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Recently I had the opportunity to read over some of the first reports to the Lot Owners of The Woodlawn Cemetery. I discovered that we made identical commitments to the families we served in the 1860's that we make today. We reported the location of the cemetery was convenient to get to from Manhattan and Westchester, the 400-acre site was a beautiful natural setting for visitors, and as a company we offered a range of services to the diversity of people that make up our community.

For generations, The Woodlawn Cemetery has provided burial space for the greater metropolitan New York area. We are currently in the process of developing the Hillcrest and Knollwood Plot, located in the center of the cemetery. This several acre site will accommodate approximately 5000 in-ground burials and will be available later this year. The Garden Conservatory Mausoleum is also under construction and provides additional new space for those interested in above ground burial and cremation alternatives.

For 140 years, the main commitment of The Woodlawn Cemetery has been to honor those in our care. Over the course of our history, many of our lot owners provided funding to establish endowments to care for the upkeep of lots, the maintenance of shrubs and the regular cleaning of monuments. Unfortunately, many of our owners never endowed their lots, believing the next generation would always care for the family lot. Gradually over time there has been minimal care and many of our older monuments need cleaning and restoration.



*President John Toale congratulates Vincent Minelli*



*Superintendent Donald Williams congratulates Barry Wyman*

We are making every effort to reach out to those with loved ones buried at The Woodlawn Cemetery with the hope they will share our tradition of honoring those who have gone before us. Through the updating of records, research, and by offering genealogical services, we are contacting the descendants of those in our care. We want people to know that space is available, they are welcome to visit, and we will work with them to provide appropriate care for their lot.

One of the most impressive things about The Woodlawn Cemetery is the dedication to quality service shared by our staff. At a recent staff meeting, I had the honor of distributing service pins to individuals who were celebrating employment anniversaries of ten years or more. Those recognized included Anthony Rotella 35 years, Barry Wyman 30 years, Emil Ruggiero 15 years, Tim Kiely 15 years and Joe Rodriguez 10 years. We have seven employees that have reached the 30 year mark, nine that have worked here for more than twenty years and 19 with over 10 years of service. Not only do we have many employees who have made a lifetime commitment to working at The Woodlawn Cemetery, several individuals come from families that have been employed here for generations.

This spring, Vincent Minelli was promoted to the position of Gardening Foreman heading a crew that mows the grounds. He has been with the company for 18 years. Our grounds crews have done an outstanding job of keeping up with task of mowing and trimming after a spring of record rains.

In addition to honoring our long time employees, we want to welcome a few new employees. We have added positions to our administration staff and have hired a new Chief Financial Officer and a Sales Manager. It is our goal to provide quality service to our lot owners and new families and these additions to our staff will help us to meet the future needs of our customers while carrying out a tradition of commitment to service.

*-- John P. Toale, Jr.*