

Guiceland Cemetery Newsletter

April 2022

Jimmy's Mumbblings

Another year with Covid in our lives disrupting schedules and daily routines!

Returning toward normalcy has me looking forward to a more normal 2022 Guiceland Memorial Day at Guiceland Cemetery. We are expecting to have the Vietnam Veterans Honor Guard and the Confederate cannon, May 29, 2022 for the Memorial Day activities.

Keeping everyone informed of the operation procedures at Guiceland Cemetery is an ongoing struggle. As a volunteer administrated organization, no one deserves confusion or confrontational situations. Most misunderstandings and conflicts are a result of misinformation or no information exchange. We have attempted to reduce the lack of information transfer by posting Guiceland Cemetery's operating procedures on the Guiceland Cemetery website (guiceland.com). Please review these before making any changes at your family's gravesites. A call to the caretaker will make life easier on all.

Your comments and suggestions are always invited. If you are interested in serving on the board of directors, please inform one of the current board members of your interest. New ideas are appreciated by all.

Happy Trails,

Jimmy

Board Members

David Franklin

Tom Gates

Jim Gaines 361-215-7048 President

Jo Morehead Oster 903-764-5906 Sec.

Donna Garrison McEwen

Tracy Salmon

Joe Garrison

George Wallace 903-986-6117VP/Caretaker

Recent Burials

	DOB	DOD	Section	Row	Plot
✓Annie Cavender	8/10/1927	4/27/2021	West	1	24
✓Marjorie Caskey	4/27/1920	8/30/2020	South	11	5
✓Willie Bing Barnett	5/15/1942	5/21/2021	South	8	9
✓Carroll D. Chaffin	3/25/1951	6/24/2021	Old	20	14
✓Beverly E. Hampton	11/29/1956	8/4/2021	West	2	61
✓Kenneth Knowlton	12/21/1929	10/1/2021	North	22	3
✓John McCullar	3/24/1946	10-19/2021	Old	5	45
✓Don E. Young	5/8/1954	10/23/2021	Old	2	52
✓Doug Calloway	6/27/1963	10/21/21	Old	8	7
✓Ted Salmon	5/17/1961	10/27/2021	North	24	9
✓Christy Ann Harris	12/12/1975	10/31/2021	West	7	2
✓Moggie Breeding	12/12/1927	10/28/2021	Old	2	5
✓Charlean Montgomery	6/1/1926	11/10/2021	Old	10	2
✓Charles F. D. Mead	1/25/1939	12/19/2021	West	7	85
✓James Wilkerson	7/27/1932	6/24/2021	Old	19	64
✓Ricky Haskins			West	6	68
✓Geneva Chaffin	3/10/1934	1/31/2022	West	5	10
✓Margie Ann Crawford	2/18/1942	2/18/2022	West	5	20

Plots at Guiceland are never sold. The record of all reserved plots is maintained on the "Official Plat" which is kept by the designated Caretaker, George Wallace. If you have plots, please check with George to confirm that they are correctly noted on the Official Plat. Plot reservations are only valid if they are on the "Official Plat". George will be available Memorial Day, May 29, 2022. Your cooperation and understanding are greatly appreciated.

Important Dates

Work Day, Sat. May 14 starting at 9:00 AM. You might want to bring gloves, a hat, water, and anything you might need.

Memorial Day Service, Sunday, May 29, 2022 (We always have our service on the **last** Sunday in May.) We will have a Business Meeting at 10 AM in the church followed by worship led by David Franklin and music by Danny Herod.

Donations

The operation and maintenance of Guiceland Cemetery comes from your donations. Our mailing address is: Guiceland Cemetery Association, P. O. Box 571, Grapeland, TX 75844. You can make donations at our annual Memorial Day Service. A board member will also be available on Saturday, May 28 from 8 AM to 3 PM to take donations.

Use of Cemetery

Families who are interested in using Guiceland Cemetery and church may hold reunions or other gatherings during daylight hours on the cemetery grounds dedicated by such public use, including holding picnics. Such meetings shall be under the supervision of the cemetery caretaker and shall conform to accepted standard for taste and decorum. Proper respect for the burial areas shall be maintained or the group will be asked to leave the cemetery ground. No alcoholic beverages are permitted upon the cemetery grounds. No fee will be charged for the use of the cemetery park areas for such gatherings.

Maintenance of Cemetery Grounds

The cemetery organization shall direct generally all improvements within the grounds and upon all plots and graves, before as well as after interments have been made therein. The organization shall have charge of the planting, sodding, surveying, and improvements generally. No one other than the proper officers of the organization shall be allowed to work on any grave or lot without permission from the organization membership.

We honor all 165 veterans buried at Guiceland Cemetery by placing the appropriate flag on each grave each Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

A True Hero

I believe the term "hero" might get a little overused. As a veteran and a long-time police officer I appreciate the sentiment of "all police officers are heroes" and "all veterans are heroes." I doubt that many police officers or veterans feel that way. In my opinion, a hero is someone who does something truly unusual, is brave in a very dangerous situation, who rises to the occasion by doing something few of us would do.

Many of us have ancestors who did heroic deeds, like those who fought at the Alamo or San Jacinto. Ben Parker approached the Comanches who showed up in war paint outside Fort Parker in 1836, offering them food and giving some inside the fort a chance to escape. These are unusual people and I feel sometimes like I have not lived up to my heritage seeing the heroes who settled Texas and paved the way for the rest of us.

South Anderson County has such a man. Although he is not buried at Guiceland Cemetery, Steven Bennett no doubt visited the cemetery and probably attended services here. Mr. Bennett has many relatives in the area and aunts, uncles, cousins, and friends of his family buried at Guiceland.

Steven Bennett was born in Palestine (probably like many of us because it was the closest hospital) April 22, 1946, but most of his family was in the Elkhart and South Anderson County area. Although his family moved around when he was young due to his dad working in the oilfield, Steven spent his summers in Elkhart. He was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the US Air Force in 1968 and trained as a pilot on B-52s and OV-10s at Webb Air Force Base in Big Spring, Texas. After graduating pilot training, Steven was assigned duties in Vietnam.

On June 29, 1972, although the war was winding down and US forces were mostly leaving Vietnam, Steven was still flying when he received a request to help South Vietnamese Marines who had US advisors with them and were being overrun by North Vietnamese regulars. Although his aircraft was not designed for offensive action (flying the OV-10, an artillery spotter), when he could not get fighter support or naval bombardment, he decided to make passes, firing his light machine guns. The South Vietnamese and Americans were able to escape but Steven's plane was hit by a missile. He was going to eject, but found out that his spotter, Marine Captain Mike Brown, had his parachute destroyed by shrapnel. Then Steven decided to eject in the Gulf of Tonkin even though he knew no pilot had ever survived a water ditching in this type of plane. Captain Bennett did not survive but Captain Brown did and was rescued. Steven Bennett risked his life twice in a span of a few minutes and ultimately gave that ultimate sacrifice. Captain Brown, retired as Major Mike Brown, USMC, said that he has known several Medal of Honor winners but that Steven Bennett "was the bravest man I've ever known." Captain Bennett did receive the Medal of Honor. Part of the Citation, signed by President Gerald R. Ford, reads, "Capt. Bennett's unparalleled concern for his companion, extraordinary heroism and intrepidity above and beyond the call of duty, at the cost of his life, were in keeping with the highest traditions of the military service and reflect great credit upon himself and the U.S. Air Force."

Steven Bennett, we salute you! Thank you for your sacrifice and for being a true hero, one that the Guiceland Cemetery family honors and remembers.

