Scout Builds Benches as Part of Eagle Award Program

Jacob Hamilton, son of Gary and Jane Hamilton of Oakwood, wanted to build something of lasting value for his Eagle Scout service project. The scout and his dad looked for a design that would use Jacob’s wood crafting skills as well as his creativity. Jacob has spent a couple of hundred hours finalizing the design, selecting materials, making templates and measuring, cutting, sanding and finishing parts and then assembling his project. The result is three five-sided, cedar benches to encircle trees on our cemetery grounds. One is located near the Stations of the Cross Mausoleum around what will become a shady spot with great views of the University of Dayton to the north and the City of Kettering to the south. The other two bench sets are placed in section 42 on either side of the monument marking the Infant graves section. Thanks to Jacob for his wonderful gift to Calvary! They will be enjoyed by many generations to come!

History Tours to Focus on Civil War Veterans and Monuments

The 150th anniversary of the start of the Civil War causes us to look at one of the oldest sections of our cemetery. Some of our Civil War veteran’s graves came from St Henry’s cemetery among those relocated here in 1872. Others passed away after 1872. The children and grandchildren of Civil War veterans also established monuments in their honor. We will share some stories about who these people were and their part in the conflict. History tours will be offered on two weekends : Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11 (Patriot Day as well as National Grandparent Day) and again on Saturday, September 17 (Constitution Day) and Sunday, September 18. Check the website for times and information after July 15, 2011.

Congressman Chuck Whalen Memorialized in Specially Designed Family Lots

Former Congressman Charles W. Whalen Jr. was laid to rest here July 2, 2011. His grave was prepared well in advance of his death, as part of his family’s establishment of their Stations of the Cross memorials in Section 31.

The old saying, “the family that prays together, stays together” is made tangible in the way the Whalens have designed their memorials at Calvary. Each black granite headstone has one of the stations in bronze on a pillar attached to it. Each family member (and their spouse) has engraved personal information including birth, death and wedding anniversary dates. A detailed description of the individual is also included on the back of the headstones, making it possible to learn something about each person buried there.

Congressman Whalen joins his parents and his older brother James, Sr.in the memorial. Continuing their sense of community and public service, the Whalens invite all visitors to the cemetery to walk The Stations of the Cross throughout their family gathering.

According to Calvary Superintendent Rick Meade, “the Whalen’s memorial is an example of the return to the family lot concept”.

For more information contact:
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Visit our website at:
www.calvarycemeterydayton.org

World War II Veteran Volunteers to Ensure Thousands of Graves Are Marked with Flags and Medallions

Every Memorial Day, our veterans graves are marked with flags provided by the Disabled American Veterans post 9. For over thirty years, Jessie Stefanics, a World War II Army-Air Force veteran, has personally coordinated delivery of these flags to Calvary. Stefanics, who served from 1943 to 1946, was trained as a pilot and flight engineer and repaired airplanes out of Roosevelt Field in NY. Originally from Pennsylvania, Jessie came to Dayton to visit his sister who was training with the Army Nursing Corps. Later he met and fell in love with her friend Mary Louise, a fellow second generation Hungarian, leading him to come back to Dayton for good in 1948. Jessie and Mary Louise worked at Wright Patterson AF Base for thirty years. Stefanics is one of experts who helped restore and refurbish many of the military aircraft seen in our Museum of the Air Force here, including Roosevelt, Eisenhower and Truman’s planes in the Air Force One collection. Highlights of working for the Museum for Jessie have included meeting actor/pilot Jimmy Stewart, who shares a small town PA background, and General James Harold “Jimmy” Doolittle, USAF, an American aviation pioneer, when he was inducted into the Hall of Fame Doolittle had been stationed at Wright Field during his early career.

These days, Jessie uses his army issue field shovel to tend to the flowers on his wife’s family grave site at Calvary. He is active in his DAV group and he and his wife both volunteer support for the VA Hospitals. They are members of St Stephens parish in Old North Dayton. The Stefanics live in Beavercreek, Ohio.

Families Celebrate Memorial Day at Calvary

This year’s Mass was attended by more than four hundred people, including families with small children. The red, white and blue balloon launch was a highlight. The beautiful sunny day encouraged strolling through the grounds to visit the grave of a loved one or to give a quick history lesson.

Board Elects Officers, Members of Exec Committee

Welcome New Board Member, Bill Focke

Bill Focke is the new representative to the Board from St Albert’s, where he has been a parishoner since 1967. He is a past Parish Council member there. A life long Daytonian, Bill graduated from Holy Angels, Chaminade High School and the University of Dayton. His career was the family chemical business. He married Mimi Boehmer and they had one daughter, now Julie Hyde of Akron, OH. She has two sons, Alec and Sam. Mimi passed away in early 2009.

Bill attended his 50th reunion of his University of Dayton graduation class last Fall. There he met DeAnn Joseph and they were just married a few months ago. Beside enjoying his grandchildren and his volunteer work, Bill is an active fly fisherman and is part of local clubs with his fellow fishermen. Of his Calvary appointment Bill says, “I am very pleased to serve to keep the tradition of this valuable institution. Calvary is an historical treasure.”