

Remembering our Heroes like Sgt. Joseph Lilly



This Memorial Day, we turn our attention to the many heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice – their lives – in support of American freedoms. Flint native Sgt. Joseph Lilly is a wonderful representation of American heroism and spirit.

Sgt. Lilly was a combat engineer who died two days after being wounded by an insurgent in Afghanistan. He is buried at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly and is memorialized with a tablet in the American Veterans' Memorial Section at Resurrection.

Sgt. Lilly believed so strongly in the Army's mission that he volunteered to serve his last tour in Afghanistan. He loved being a U.S. Army soldier and representing all Americans wherever he went around the world.

Two weeks before his death, Sgt. Lilly was hit by a sniper's bullet through his chin and was medevacked to Kanda-

har. His stitches were removed and he was cleared to return to his unit, but not released for combat duty.

When Sgt. Lilly returned to his unit, his military leaders on the ground were looking for volunteers to go on a mission.

With the love of his brothers in mind, Sgt. Lilly vol-

unteered. An hour into the mission, an IED exploded and Sgt. Lilly, seriously wounded, was medevacked back to the medical unit in Kandahar.

As the medical staff began treating him, LTCDR Kathryn Wilgus noticed a problem. The nametag on Sgt. Lilly's uniform wasn't his. She had just spent over two weeks caring for his prior injury and knew what he looked like.

They soon found out that although Sgt. Lilly had been cleared to return to his unit, he hadn't been cleared to resume his combat duty. When they asked for volunteers, this true hero put another soldier's jacket on because he was determined to be with his brothers-in-arms at all costs.

Michael Lilly, Joe's dad, said he was proud of his son's choice to fight for his country and that we can all learn from his actions and his dedication.

"Joe knew what the consequence was," Michael says. "It was worth it to him because he believed in what he was doing. He was trying to keep us free and out of the clutches of terrorism. He accepted the risk. That right there is someone who has a lot of guts."

This Memorial Day we remember and honor our heroes like Sgt. Joseph Lilly.



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Gold Star Families Memorial Monument to be Dedicated in Clinton Township on June 12

Resurrection is a proud supporter of the Southeastern Michigan Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, which will be permanently placed at Clinton Township Civic Center.

The Dedication Ceremony for this Monument will be held on June 12, 2021 at 1 pm at the Civic Center, located at 40700 Romeo Plank Road, just across the street from Resurrection Cemetery.

Guest speakers will include Medal of Honor Recipients Woody Williams, Jim McCloughan and Retired MG Brian Cummings, the former Program Executive Officer for Ground Combat Vehicles.

All are invited to attend this outdoor ceremony and share in the honoring and recognition of Gold Star Families, and their legacy of loved ones who gave their lives for the freedoms we all enjoy in the U.S.

The mission of America's Gold Star Families is to provide honor, hope and healing to those grieving any military loss through active-duty service in the United States Armed Forces. Every branch of the U.S. Military is represented and all conflicts are recognized. Gold Star Families Memorial Monuments are a two-sided tribute made of black granite that depict images and words of valor and heroism.

One side bares the words: Gold Star Families Memorial Monument, a tribute to Gold Star Families and Relatives who sacrificed a Loved One for our Freedom.

For further information contact (Ret) Col. Nick Straffon or Karen Straffon at kcstraffon@cocmast.net or call 810-278-0415.



A stunning glass mosaic feature will soon adorn our Orthodox Garden

Our Orthodox Section that opened in August 2019 will soon include a prominent feature that has been chosen with the help of local Orthodox community leaders.

Designed by Gianfranco Tassara of Inspired Artisans Ltd. in Milwaukee, this 4-sided feature includes many iconographic representations of the following four themes:

- Crucifixion
- Resurrection
- Ascension
- Mother of God

This 16-foot tall feature is made of Gray granite and Color Venetian Glass Mosaic. It will be installed in the center of the Orthodox Section at Resurrection and will be visible from all four sides, and from any location in the entire section.

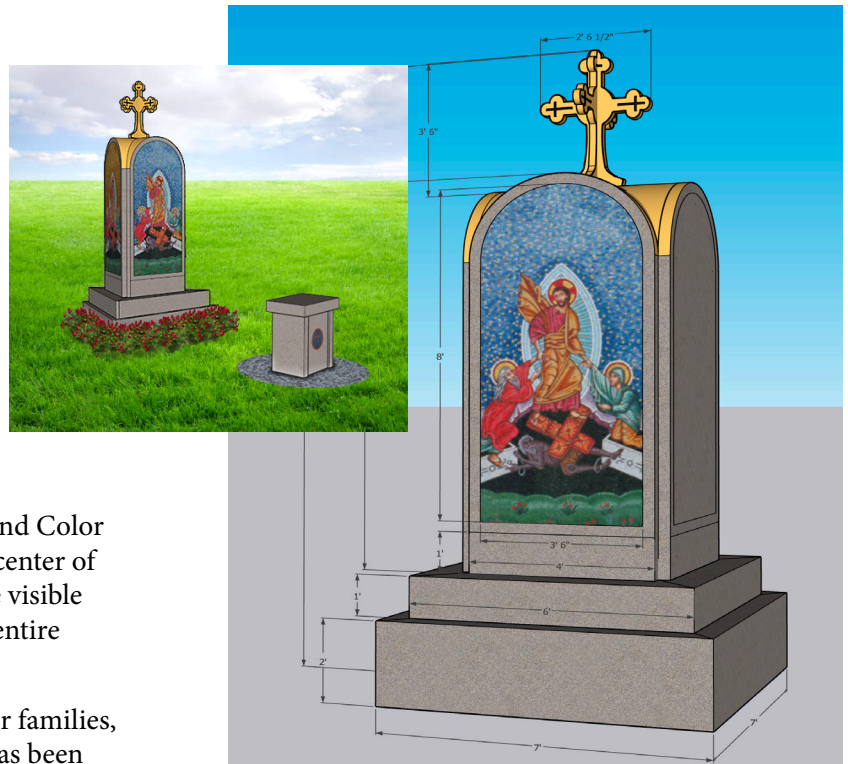
We will be planning a formal Dedication event for families, community leaders and others once the feature has been installed, with more information available in the months ahead. Here's further information about what the feature represents.

Crucifixion

In Christ's crucifixion, we come to fully understand what God is really about. All speculations about Him break down and all we are left with is the image of God who loved the world so much, that He sent His only Son into the world who emptied Himself of his divinity, taking on the form of a servant, becoming a man; a man who was willing to be crucified and tortured at the hands of his own creation so that he can make those same hands a part of Himself, and by extension, a part of his Father.

Resurrection

Christ's glorious Resurrection from the dead is the central tenant of the Orthodox faith. We believe that through His resurrection life is granted to all the world and we shall participate in this new life both here and in the world to come. We joyfully proclaim that death no longer has power over mankind, for life has dawned from the tomb.



Ascension

Forty days after His Resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven in the presence of all His Disciples. Those of Orthodox Faith believe that the same way that Jesus ascended, He will one day return to us. We also remember that after this day for the first time in history a human being sits on the throne of God, equal with God the Father.

Panagia (Virgin Mary)

The person of the Panagia is especially revered in the Orthodox Church. She guides us, prays for us, heals us, and gives us a model of obedience to God, purity, meekness, and love. We believe that her Son listens to her prayers and advice, just as He did at the wedding of Cana, and so we turn to her with faith and hope during our times of trouble and ask for her protection.

This section is a place where those of Orthodox Faith can honor their heritage and family legacies. We are proud to offer a resting place that reflects the traditions observed by the various Orthodox Faiths. Contact us if you have any questions or want to learn more.

Resurrection's Administrative, Finance and IT teams provide exemplary service

Behind every successful organization is an engine of professionals that help to make everything go smoothly, from behind-the-scenes operations to customer-facing service.

At Resurrection, that perfectly describes our Administrative, Finance and IT teams, who are tasked with critical responsibilities that all families have come to expect.

Our Administrative team members are often the first friendly face that a visitor sees when they have a question or are requesting assistance at our main office. From tracking work orders and winter decorations to providing families with information about a loved one's crypt or grave location, these professionals provide the highest level of customer service anywhere in the industry. Together, they process over 2,300 services a year, and handle memorial and monument orders, photo ceramics, and more.

Managing a location of Resurrection's size also requires a dedicated Finance team to handle all the monetary transactions from contract payments to payroll. We are known as an organization that is very responsive and quick to pay our valued suppliers, which is a credit to the organization.



ABOVE:
Several members of our Administrative, Finance and IT teams are pictured inside Resurrection's lobby.

RIGHT:
Resurrection Office Manager Dawn Tench manages the Administrative team and helps support our commitment to customer service.



Finally, our website, mapping and email systems, and other tools needed to oversee the modern-day cemetery rely on the skills and knowledge of our IT professionals. Resurrection is known to have one of the most comprehensive records management program that is the envy of the industry, along with a mapping system connected to our website that can help families find the exact locations of their loved ones.

We especially want to recognize these

teams for ensuring that family needs have continued to be met during the pandemic and for managing through some remote working periods and unique schedules. They have all made extra sacrifices, including working long hours, to support what has been a busy and stressful time.

We are fortunate to have them. Please feel free to introduce yourself to any of our team members when you come visit us in the office.

Glass-front niches - telling the story of a life well lived

As the needs of our families evolve, Resurrection is committed to evolving with it. For many, that includes more options for personalization to celebrate a life well lived, particularly when a family chooses cremation.

If you have visited our climate controlled indoor mausoleums, you will have noticed that we continue to add new areas for glass-front niches, which provide a lasting demonstration of love, family and personal interests. These indoor displays provide a home for a decorative urn with personal items of emotional value.

Many families and individuals who have selected this option have shared with us that glass-front niches essentially tell a story of a loved one or

couple that is of great meaning. The displaying of these personal items also are a reminder of happy memories for families, and serve as an introduction to future generations of their forefathers and mothers.

Our glass-front niches are in high demand so we encourage those interested to speak with one of our family service counselors to learn more.



Why are coins left on cemetery headstones?

Modern tradition holds that leaving coins on military tombstones denotes visits from living soldiers.

While visiting some cemeteries you may notice that headstones marking certain graves have coins on them, left by previous visitors to the grave. These coins have distinct meanings when left on the headstones of those who gave their life while serving in America's military. Their meanings vary depending on the denomination of the coin.

A coin left on a headstone or at the grave site is meant as a message to the deceased soldier's family that someone else has visited the grave to pay respect. Leaving a penny at the grave means simply that you visited.

A nickel indicates that you and the deceased trained at boot camp together, while a dime means you served with him in some capacity. By leaving a quarter at the grave, you are telling the family that you were with the soldier when he



was killed.

According to tradition, the money left at graves in national cemeteries and state veterans cemeteries is eventually collected, and the funds are put toward maintaining the cemetery or paying burial costs for indigent veterans.

Stations of the Cross Returns on Good Friday



It was wonderful to see hundreds of people gathered for our Stations of the Cross Prayer Procession on Good Friday after a one-year hiatus in 2020 because of the pandemic.

We appreciate those who attended this year to help relaunch our annual Easter tradition. It gave us all a wonderful opportunity to thank Jesus for His selfless sacrifices for our benefit.



News & Notes

Please contact the Resurrection office with questions.

- Only fresh or dried flowers in approved coned containers are permitted on graves. Artificial flowers are not permitted.
- Planting annuals or perennials is allowed in the area above the headstone.
- Flower boxes are not required but are allowed. They must be 24" x 12" and flush with the ground and placed above the headstone.
- To conserve water please limit your watering to 20 minutes or less.
- To maintain the beauty of the cemetery regular clean ups are performed by our grounds professionals. All artificial flowers and non-conforming decorations on ground burial sections are removed and discarded.
- While visiting please keep your vehicle off the grass.
- U.S. flags are available in the office to be placed on graves of Veterans buried at Resurrection.

Please join us for Events at Resurrection in 2021

August 28 - Children's Remembrance Service, 2 p.m.

*Friends, family and other loved ones are welcome.
Held at the Children's Section.*

September 11 - Patriot Day Service, time TBD

American Veterans' Memorial
*Guest speakers will help us remember
those who died on September 11, 2001.*

November 11 - Veterans Day Service, 1 p.m.

American Veterans' Memorial
*Guest speakers will help us remember our
veterans in this moving ceremony.*

December 2 - Season of Remembrance, 5-7 p.m.

Most Holy Trinity Mausoleum
*Candlelight vigil at 6 p.m. Celebrate and remember
your loved ones during the holiday season.*

December 18 - Wreaths Across America, 12 p.m.

American Veterans' Memorial
*Wreaths will be placed by veterans and family
members at the final resting places of our honored
veterans as part of this nationwide event.*

For information on any of these events please visit
www.mtelliott.com/resurrection or call us at
586-286-9020.



Enter our drawing for a **\$500 Visa Gift Card**

*Details are available on the ballot
stapled to this newsletter.*



Educational Preplanning Seminars Continue

We are pleased to offer in-person seminars once again for families interested in preplanning their cemetery arrangements and creating a lasting family legacy for generations. The seminars listed below are being held with COVID-19 protocols in place. There will be a light meal for those individuals who attend. Anyone who has not attended a past seminar with Resurrection can sign up by calling 586-286-9020.

During these seminars, our Community Education Manager Derek Foster will review the various options available to you and your family, from mausoleum burials to cremation. We'll provide the information necessary to help you make an informed decision that fits your needs when you are ready. Family Service Counselors will also be in attendance and can answer further questions you may have.

Wednesday, June 9 at 6 p.m.

or

Tuesday, June 15 at 6 p.m.

Fern Hill Golf Course

17600 Clinton River Road, Clinton Township



contact us

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Clinton Twp., MI 48038-2903

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