



Ferncliff

Celebrating 160 Years of Service to our Community

160

YEARS

1863 - 2023

Fall NEWSLETTER

October - December 2023

Honoring Our Heroes Ferncliff's Veterans War Memorial Park

As the summer heat slowly wanes and a chill creeps into the air, we find ourselves anticipating the arrival of autumn. There is something enchanting about this season, a time when nature undergoes a spectacular transformation.

As the trees shed their green hues, they don an artist's palette of reds, oranges, yellows, and browns. Every leaf paints a vivid picture of nature's beauty, and a leisurely walk-through Ferncliff Cemetery becomes a journey through a living work of art.

Amidst the falling leaves and cooling temperatures, we also mark a significant day in November—Veterans Day. It's a time when we come together as a nation to pay tribute to the brave men and women who have defended our nation throughout its history. Their sacrifices, dedication, and unwavering commitment to protecting our freedoms deserve our deepest gratitude and respect.

Our heroes deserve year-round recognition, extending beyond Veterans Day. Therefore, in 2015, after nearly a year of planning and dreaming, Ferncliff's Veterans War Memorial Park became a reality. The memorial, a permanent place of remembrance, would feature nine granite tablets inscribed with the pivotal events from each of the historical conflicts. Ferncliff's Board of Trustees wholeheartedly approved the plans, providing the momentum to move forward. A thoughtfully selected location, adjacent to the World War II section, provided a seamless transition, ensuring the heroic stories of Clark County's brave men and women are always remembered. In the fall of 2015, Ferncliff Cemetery proudly dedicated the park, "Lest We Never Forget."

Ferncliff is much more than a final resting place to 80,000 souls; it is a living testament to the courage and sacrifice of those who served in these nine distinct conflicts represented in stone:



- The American Revolution (1775-1783): As we walk through these hallowed grounds, let us remember the brave souls who fought for the birth of our nation. Their sacrifices laid the foundation for the freedoms we cherish today.
- The War of 1812 (1812-1815): Ferncliff holds the stories of those who defended our young nation during this often-overlooked conflict. Their patriotism and resilience echo through the ages.
- The Civil War (1861-1865): Here, amidst the solemn beauty of these grounds, we reflect on the profound sacrifices made during the Civil War. We pay tribute to both Union and Confederate soldiers, recognizing the shared bond of service.
- The Spanish-American War (1898): We honor the valor of those who answered the call during this pivotal chapter in our history. Their dedication to preserving the nation's integrity is a testament to their character.

(article continued...)

Our Mission: Ferncliff serves its community with supportive, affordable, and inclusive end of life services in a beautiful, historic environment in perpetuity.

501 W. McCreight Ave. Springfield, OH 45504 | Phone: 937.322.3491

Fall Gate Hours: Daily: 7:30AM - 5:00PM

Office Hours: Monday - Friday: 8:00AM - 4:30PM | ferncliffcemetery.org

Honoring Our Heroes Ferncliff's Veterans War Memorial Park

- **World War I (1914-1918):** The tranquility of our cemetery contrasts with the chaos of the Great War. We remember those who served with honor and dignity, forging the path for future generations.
- **World War II (1939-1945):** The world's brave generation rests here, a reminder of their indomitable spirit. Their sacrifices ensured that the light of freedom continued to shine in a world threatened by darkness.
- **The Korean War (1950-1953):** This dedicated monument honors those who defended South Korea against aggression. Their bravery and resolve contributed to the preservation of democracy on the Korean Peninsula.
- **The Vietnam War (1955-1975):** We reflect on the tumultuous era of Vietnam, a conflict that tested the resolve of a generation. Ferncliff's Veterans War Memorial Park is a place to remember the sacrifices made by those who answered their nation's call.
- **The War on Terror** – Including The Persian Gulf War, The Afghanistan War & The Iraq War: Our commitment to honoring veterans extends to those who served in more recent conflicts. As we visit this section, we recognize their contributions to global peace and security.

Every name etched into these hallowed grounds represents a story of courage, sacrifice, and dedication to a cause greater than oneself. Our veterans, across all of these conflicts, have left an indelible mark on our nation's history. As we walk among these nine monuments, let us take a moment to reflect on the freedoms we enjoy today, made possible by the selflessness of these remarkable individuals.

Please join us for a Veterans Day Ceremony on Friday, November 10, 2023, at 10:00am as we come together to honor and pay our heartfelt tribute to the courageous men and women who valiantly defended our freedoms. Their legacy lives on in the hearts of a grateful nation and their memory will forever be a source of inspiration for us all.

New Tours Offered For The First Time!

We embarked on an exciting journey this year by introducing monthly trolley tours of the cemetery, each focusing on a different aspect of our history and legacy. These tours have been exceptionally successful, usually filling up in the first couple of days after reservations were announced. We will be finishing up this year's tours soon, but definitely plan to offer another series of tours again next year. We have also developed self-guided tours on the same subjects. Maps can be obtained in our office or are available on our website under "Resources."

This year's tours included:

April – Spring Tour- highlighting the variety of trees and bushes blooming in our arboretum.

May – Celebrating the Women of Ferncliff - looking at the histories of amazing women.

June – Trailblazer Tour – featuring prominent African Americans of Springfield history.

July – Industrialists Tour– the famous names and stories of those who built our city.

August – Athletes and Entertainers – honoring those whose achievements made them famous.

September – Veterans – remembering the bravery and service of those to whom we owe our freedom.



Historical Series with Dr. Schanher

Dr. Paul W. "Ski" Schanher III has been a devoted member of the Springfield Cemetery Association and serves as the President of the Board of Trustees. "Ski" is a retired, local dentist and is an active and respected member of the historical community in Springfield and Clark County.

The article below is next in the series written by Dr. Schanher.

People Are Coming

When founding father James Demint and surveyor John Daugherty platted Springfield in March 1801, people began to settle in the area. They built log houses, opened small businesses, and established a school that also served as a church. For protection from unexpected confrontations with the Native American population, the early settlers built a large two-story log house to serve as a blockhouse. Springfield was growing.

In the spring of 1804, a couple from Virginia, Walter and Mrs. Smallwood, arrived in Springfield. Existing records do not mention her name. They purchased a lot and built a comfortable residence on the south side of Main Street. For many years Mr. Smallwood was the only blacksmith in town. A woman of practical reasoning skills, superior intellect, impeccable manners, and socially aware of the need to improve the community, Mrs. Smallwood became one of the original members of the first Methodist society organized in Springfield. Her gift of humble heartfelt prayer endeared her to the congregation.

Mr. and Mrs. Smallwood became the parents of six children, three boys and three girls. Growing in the grace and the knowledge of the gospel under Mrs. Smallwood's discipleship, their children became leaders in their religious peer groups. As the children matured and began to move on with their lives, in 1852, the Smallwood's followed their children to Missouri. They lived the remainder of their lives in Missouri before passing away, Mrs. Smallwood prior to the Civil War and Mr. Smallwood in 1869.

The Reverend Saul Henkle was the first minister of the gospel to settle in Springfield, Ohio. He, his young wife, and their two-month-old child traveled from Hardy County, Virginia in the spring of 1809 to begin their ministry in frontier Springfield. Pastor Henkle was an ordained preacher of the Methodist Episcopal Church but eventually became affiliated with the newly organized Protestant Methodists. He served his newly-adopted community by setting the example and "living to promote the moral and religious welfare of the people in the village." He unashamedly preached the Word of God, officiated every marriage, and solemnly conducted every funeral. Pastor Henkle served the citizens of Springfield for twenty-eight years.

In 1827, pastor Henkle published a religious paper, called The Gospel Trumpet, that was distributed throughout the town. He also wrote editorials for the local newspaper, called the Western Pioneer. In 1830, the citizens of Springfield elected him as Clerk of the Court, an office in which he efficiently administered the business of the court.

In September 1825, his wife died. He later remarried in 1829, describing his second wife as "a most excellent woman." Pastor Henkle died in Springfield in 1837, at age 55. He lies at rest in the old Springfield Burying Ground, gravesite unknown.

Cherished Companions : The Heartfelt Role of Ferncliff's Pet Cemetery

At Ferncliff, there is a special place where we celebrate the cherished companions who have warmed our homes and nestled their way into our hearts. Our Pet Cemetery, the final resting place of over 60 beloved pets, honors the unique role our furry, feathered, or scaly friends play in our lives and the indescribable bond that forms.

We understand how heart-wrenching losing a pet can be and our compassionate, caring staff is available to assist you as you honor their memory with the love they brought into your life.

Coming Soon: We invite you to keep a watchful eye on our Pet Cemetery for future updates and improvements.



Rooted in Family

Arborist, Mark Goheen, shares a special moment with his grandkids.

Save The Date

Saturday, September 23, 2023 9:30 am -2:00 pm at Snyder Park's Central Bark, Ferncliff Pet Cemetery will be sponsoring a table at WUFFSTOCK. Please stop by for a keepsake pawprint.

Save The Date

On Friday, November 10, 2023, Ferncliff will host its annual Veterans Day Program. The program will begin at 10:00 am at our Veterans War Memorial Park and will include a roll call of names of those veterans who have passed during the past year.

A New Journey: Introducing the Ferncliff Foundation

Ferncliff is happy to announce a new chapter in the 160-year journey of the Cemetery and Arboretum. Ferncliff has moved forward with establishing a new non-profit corporation, the Ferncliff Foundation. The Foundation will be dedicated to preserving the legacy of our beautiful, historic grounds and enhancing our service to our community. At the heart of our mission lies a profound commitment to preserve the rich history and cultural heritage of our cemetery and arboretum. Ferncliff has been a sacred place of rest and reflection for one-hundred sixty years, and we are determined to ensure its legacy endures in perpetuity. The 218 acres of beautiful grounds includes over 80,000 interments and a commitment for their maintenance and upkeep.

The formation of the Ferncliff Foundation is a step towards achieving this goal.

An organizational meeting of the Foundation's membership was recently held, the members of the Board of Directors of the Ferncliff Foundation are:

- Shelley Baker,
- Sharon Evans,
- Kevin Rose,
- Paul "Ski" Schanher, and
- Myles Trempe

We are also pleased to announce the election of officers. They are:

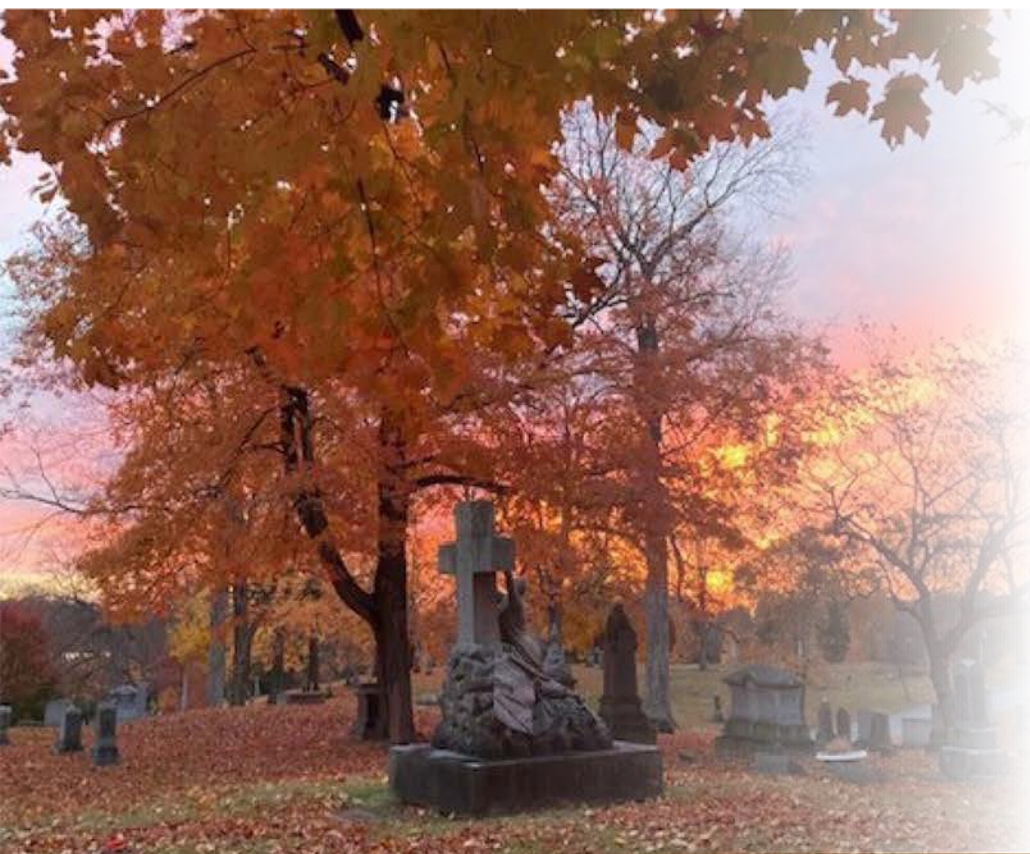
- Kevin Rose, President,
- Sharon Evans, Vice President,
- Shelley Baker, Secretary and Treasurer

As we embark on this new chapter with the Ferncliff Foundation, we are filled with hope and anticipation. Our commitment to preserving the memory of those laid to rest here and enhancing Ferncliff's role in the well-being of our community remains unwavering.

We will continue to share updates in the coming months. Together we will ensure that our legacy endures in perpetuity.

Fall Back: Gate Hours Changing

With the onset of fall, Ferncliff's main gate on McCreight Avenue will close earlier, at 5:00 pm, beginning on Sunday, November 5, 2023, in conjunction with the end of Daylight Savings Time. The Plum Street gates will continue to close at 4:30 pm.



Did You Know?

Our cherished historic cemetery not only holds a rich legacy but also offers an abundance of available burial space that is projected to endure for more than 150 years into the future.



A granite marker or monument may take up to 6 months. We'd be happy to work with you to design and order a memorial for your loved one or yourself.

Gathering Momentum: The Springfield Cemetery Association Holds Annual Meeting

As we approach our 160th Anniversary, the 159th Annual Meeting of the Springfield Cemetery Association was conducted on August 8, 2023. This outstanding gathering underscored our Association's unwavering dedication to the oversight of the business affairs, vision, and progress toward innovation in the cemetery industry.

The Springfield Cemetery Association, the governing body of Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum, consists of 25 dedicated members from our community, with nine members elected to serve as Trustees. This year, we were pleased to have 21 members in attendance, along with key Ferncliff staff.

The meeting commenced with a welcome from our President, Deborah Hill. President Hill introduced Executive Director Shelley Baker, who expressed her heartfelt gratitude for the members' committed service to the Association. Baker then shared her vision and goals for the future of Ferncliff. Shelley emphasized the significance of collaboration, the importance of our community, continued excellence in the delivery of compassionate service, and her commitment to effective management. She stated that the importance and benefits of having a clear vision in developing her priorities were a result of the Association's prior approval of the Strategic Plan and most recently the 2022-23 Ferncliff Master Plan.

Former Executive Director Darrell Kitchen presented reports, including a review of the Investments and the Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Information for the Springfield Cemetery Association.

The meeting also included the reappointment of Trustees David Martin, Dale Miller, and Sheila Rice for the 2023-2026 term. President Deborah Hill announced, with regret, the resignation of Roger Evans from the Board of Trustees, although we are all very pleased that he will remain as a member of our Association membership. Darrell Kitchen was appointed to the Board of Trustees, fulfilling the unexpired term of Mr. Evans. To honor Mr. Evans' 31 years of service, Vice President Dr. Paul "Ski" Schanher read a heartfelt Resolution recognizing his leadership and many valued contributions.

As the meeting approached its conclusion, Vice President Dr. Paul "Ski" Schanher delivered an informative and interesting presentation, sharing the rich history of Ferncliff and Clark County with the attendees. The compelling historical review was supported by slides, photographs, and stories that helped bring forward a high level of interest and attention.

With the official business concluded, the 159th Annual Meeting was adjourned, marking a successful gathering that also affirmed the commitment to advancing Ferncliff Cemetery and Arboretum in a spirit of service, excellence, and dedication.

We extend our gratitude to all members and participants who joined us for this meaningful occasion and to those who have worked with us through the past year to achieve our goals. Together, we continue to shape the future of Ferncliff with unwavering dedication and a shared commitment to the Mission set by the Association in 2019.

Charting the Course: Election of Officers

Following the Annual Meeting of the Association, the Board of Trustees met for their Annual Organizational Meeting. This meeting results in the election of officers. Effective August 8, 2023, the following officers were elected to serve:

Board of Trustees:

Paul "Ski" Schanher, President | David Martin, Vice President and Secretary | Richard Umbaugh, Treasurer

Administrative Officer:

Shelley Baker, Assistant Secretary

The dedication and passion displayed by every member of our Board of Trustees is truly inspiring, and we are eager to embrace another year of service to our community.

In addition, Deborah Hill was acknowledged and thanked for her commitment and leadership as she served as our President during the past four years. There was the implementation of a Strategic Plan, organizational changes, a pandemic, economic changes, and a Master Plan that highlighted her terms of service. She will continue to serve on the Executive Committee as our Immediate Past President. The Trustees also acknowledged the leadership and counsel of Chet Walthall who provided excellent service as the Immediate Past President over the past five years.

With the high level of commitment from our Board of Trustees we are confident that we will continue to provide our community with supportive, affordable, and inclusive end-of-life services. Our commitment to innovation and collaboration will remain steadfast. We are determined to build upon the momentum generated at this meeting and to fulfill our mission and obligation.

Employee Spotlight

We'd like to introduce you to two remarkable individuals who are the heart and soul of our security team, Mark Hamilton and Jeff Phillips. With a combined dedication of six years to Ferncliff, these gentlemen have truly become the friendly faces that many of you have come to know and trust.

Mark Hamilton, a retiree after 39 years of factory work, found his second calling right here at Ferncliff. He treasures the change of pace that comes with his part-time position and deeply appreciates the tranquil and serene environment that surrounds him. For Mark, this role represents more than just a job; it's a labor of love, as he wholeheartedly embraces the opportunity to serve our community.

Similarly, Jeff Phillips, after 42 years working in a shop, embarked on this journey of part-time service with Ferncliff. Much like Mark, Jeff revels in the serenity he experiences while patrolling our grounds on a beautiful afternoon. His dedication shines through as he ensures that our cemetery remains a peaceful and welcoming place for all visitors.

One of the most heartwarming aspects of their roles is the relationships they've built with our visitors. Mark and Jeff have become familiar faces to many, helping families locate graves, answering questions, and guiding them through our beautiful grounds. These "regulars" they encounter have become more than visitors; they're cherished friends, and Mark and Jeff enjoy learning about their unique family stories.

We want to take this moment to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mark and Jeff for their unwavering commitment to Ferncliff. Their love, integrity, and dedication have made a profound impact on our community. The serenity and peace they bring to our cemetery are invaluable, and we are truly fortunate to have them as part of our Ferncliff family.

So, the next time you see Mark or Jeff on your visit to Ferncliff, be sure to say hello and thank them for the important contribution they make to our beloved cemetery.



Ferncliff's Security Team - Mark Hamilton (left) and Jeff Phillips

Mausoleum Crawl Returns **ADDITIONAL** Night Added



Our Mausoleum Crawl returned last fall for the 5th time and was an overwhelming success, with reservations filling up in just the first few days. As a result of its popularity, our 6th Annual Mausoleum Crawl will be expanded to two nights. This walking tour, led by Kevin Rose of the Turner Foundation will be offered **Thursday, October 19, and Tuesday, October 24**. These evening walking tours will feature several of our private family mausoleums and will be opened for viewing inside as Kevin tells the history and background stories behind these prominent Springfield families.

Note that these are strenuous walking tours including hills. Registration is from 5:00 – 6:00 PM. Crawl starts at 6:00 PM. Suggestion Donation is \$10 per person. Call now for reservations 937-322-3491.

Getting to Know our Board Members: Mr. Chet Walthall

In each issue of The Ferncliff Newsletter, we include an introduction to one of our Board Members. We are extremely proud of each member of our Board and the contributions they make to strengthening our mission to serve our community with affordable, inclusive, end-of-life services.

This month, we would like to introduce you to Chet Walthall, a dedicated member and past president of our Board of Trustees. Chet, a Springfield, Ohio native, began his journey at Greenon High School. Following his graduation, he pursued his studies at Sinclair College and The University of Dayton.

In 1959, Heat-Treating, Inc in Springfield was established. Chet's entrepreneurial spirit saw him take the reins as owner in 1977, and under his visionary leadership, the business experienced remarkable growth and expansion. Beyond Heat-Treating, Inc., Chet serves as President of 75 and Fourth Street, Inc. in Springfield and Heat-Treating Technologies, Inc. in Lima, Ohio, further demonstrating his passion for manufacturing and community service. Chet and his wife Judy are equal partners of JACL Investments LLC, a real estate and stock market investment holding company.

Chet's dedication to both his industry and community is exemplified through his extensive service, which includes roles such as Board of Directors and Past President of The Springfield Management Association, The Metal Treating Institute, and Junior Achievement of Springfield and Clark County, where he was part of the inaugural class in 1956 and received the prestigious "Bronze Leadership Award". He also served on the Board of Directors for The National Association of Manufacturing, Pentaflex, Inc, and Security National Bank (Park National Bank).

As a corporate member of ASM International, U.S Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Independent Business, the National Association of Manufacturers, and The International Association of Commercial Metal Treaters, Chet's influence spans far and wide. He has chaired the Annual Wittenberg Management Conference and is a proud recipient of The Silver Knight of Management Award by The National Management Association (1984).

Beyond these accolades, Chet is a member of The Industrial Advisory Board of Clark State Community College and has

held leadership roles in various organizations, including Chairman of the Manufacturers Council, the Springfield Chamber of Commerce, and Past Chairman of the Great Lakes Chapter of Metal Treating Institute. He also co-chaired Clark County Elect DeWine U.S. Senate at one point.

Chet's commitment extends to his involvement with The Ohio State University President's Club, The Ohio State Alumni Association, ASM International, Cincinnati Banker's Club, Clark State Performing Arts Center Board, The Springfield Art Museum, The Springfield Management Association, the Spring Creek Stock Club, and St Andrew Lutheran Church.

Family holds a special place in Chet's heart, and he shares his life with wife Judy and their children, including Karin, Cathy, Lisa, Amy, Michelle, and their late son Michael. Chet and Judy have 11 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

When not in Springfield or serving the community, Chet and Judy enjoy their time at their southern home in Ft Myers, Florida. Chet also has a passion for convertibles, old cars, and antique collecting.

Chet's connection to Ferncliff runs deep. He joined The Springfield Cemetery Association in 1993 and has served on the Board of Trustees since 2003.

Several of Chet's family members rest eternally at Ferncliff, with some interred as early as 1913, including his Grandfather, Great Uncles and cousins.

When asked about Ferncliff, Chet had these heartfelt words to share: "Ferncliff is one of the most beautiful cemeteries I have ever seen. I am particularly impressed by the tremendous progress seen in the last few years and am proud of the employees for their growth and the team approach that they have enthusiastically embraced."

We are truly fortunate to have Chet Walthall's dedicated service, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to him for his unwavering commitment to ensuring Ferncliff's future.



The Governing Body of Ferncliff Cemetery

The Governing Body of Ferncliff Cemetery is a non-profit, volunteer organization. The Springfield Cemetery Association is comprised of 25 members from our community. Of these, nine members are selected to serve as trustees [* marked below]

Currently, these members include:

- Pamela Bennett
- Bill Brougher
- Jim Campbell
- Darnell Carter
- John Detrick
- Roger Evans
- Sharon Evans
- Harold Goodrich
- Dale Henry
- Deborah Hill*, Immediate Past President
- Darrell Kitchen*
- Ed Leventhal
- Atty. David Martin*, Vice President/Secretary
- Larry McCoy
- Julie McGregor
- Daniel McGregor
- Dale E. Miller*
- Sheila Rice*
- Reed Robertson*
- Dr. Paul "Ski" Schanher*, President
- Steve Schumaker
- Laurel Shouvin
- Jon Sterling
- Dr. Richard Umbaugh*, Treasurer
- Chester Walthall*



Ferncliff

501 W. McCreight Ave.
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Are you thinking about purchasing space at Ferncliff?

Perhaps near a loved one?
Call about availability
of property throughout
our grounds.

- Susanne Taylor

There's something missing in my home,
I feel it day and night,
I know it will take time and strength
before things feel quite right.
But just for now, I need to mourn,
My heart... it needs to mend.
Though some may say,
"It's just a pet,"
I know I've lost a friend.
You've brought such laughter to my home,
and richness to my days.
A constant friend through joy or loss
with gentle, loving ways.
Companion, friend, and confidante,
A friend I won't forget.
You'll live forever in my heart,
My sweet, forever pet.