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EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION
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May 2019

Dear Members and Friends of Evergreen Cemetery Association:

The Cemetery Board of Trustees along with Executive Director Karen Lentz and Superintendent Rusty Billman extend springtime greetings. We wish to express a heartfelt THANK YOU for the financial support many of you provide Evergreen Cemetery Association through your donations as we strive to perpetuate the legacy of Evergreen and Memorial Gardens cemeteries.

We once again call attention to the impact of cremation that has seriously affected cemetery business in addition to the impact of the State Veterans Cemetery at Camp Ripley. As reported to you last year we continue to experience a decline in burials along with grave sales compared to years past. Since burials and grave sales represent the major source of income this continues to negatively affect our income to the extent that we must rely extensively on savings and donations.

Without question, this is perhaps the biggest challenge for the Cemetery Board of Trustees in our efforts to perpetuate the legacy of our cemeteries as places of Rest, Remembrance and Reflection. The Board of Trustees regularly with due-diligence reviews overall operations with an emphasis on efficiency as well as ensuring appropriate service to association members and the general public. Our goal remains to maintain our cemeteries in the best possible conditions at all times with the resources available, and to appropriately care for the more than 20,000 burials within our cemeteries.

Even with the challenges faced, and with your support, additional much needed road repairs were accomplished last year. We are hopeful that other needed roadwork will be able to be done this year. And, we were able to replace the 40-year old pickup truck with a used one that we expect will provide maintenance service within the cemeteries for several years. We continue to work with the Central Lakes College Natural Resources program in the development of a Tree/Vegetation Management Plan along with the assistance of a local arborist and we hope to soon begin planting new trees to replace the many trees lost during the past several years, mainly from storm damage. We are also developing a volunteer program for those who may wish to contribute their time and talents; if you may be interested in volunteering to assist with the work of the cemeteries please complete the form at the end of this letter and return to the office.

“A cemetery is a history of people, a perpetual record of yesterday and a sanctuary of peace and quiet today. A cemetery exists because every life is worth loving and remembering – always.” (Author unknown) Your Board of Trustees and Staff believe in this statement and we exist to serve you. Should you have any questions or desire information related to our cemeteries, please don't hesitate to contact any of the Trustees or Karen and Rusty. Our website www.evergreencemeterybrainerd.com contains valuable information about the Evergreen Cemetery Association including the important Directory of the Dead along with how to contact us for any reason.

With current trends previously noted we have no choice at the present time but to continue to ask for your ongoing financial support. Be reminded that we are a 501(c)13 (tax deductible) non-profit organization and we are not affiliated with any governmental agency. As a result, we receive no financial support from the City of Brainerd, Crow Wing County, or other governmental unit. THANK YOU for your past donations. If you haven't made a prior donation, please consider adding Evergreen Cemetery Association to your charitable contribution recipients or even consider leaving a legacy gift by including the cemeteries in your will or estate planning as some folks have recently done.

Sincerely,

Board of Trustees
Evergreen Cemetery Association

PS: Checks can be made out to Evergreen Cemetery Association and mailed to the address above. Watch for information about tours of Evergreen Cemetery in conjunction with Brainerd History Week.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> NO CHANGE TO MAIL LIST | <input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE TO MAIL LIST |
| Name(s) _____ Address _____ | |
| City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ | |
| Email (Office Use Only) _____ | |
| I am interested in volunteering for: <input type="checkbox"/> Grounds Maintenance <input type="checkbox"/> General Office Work | |
| Areas of interest _____ | |
| I could volunteer: <input type="checkbox"/> weekly <input type="checkbox"/> monthly <input type="checkbox"/> occasionally when called | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I may have interest in serving on the Board of Trustees for EVERGREEN CEMETERY ASSOCIATION | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I am currently available <input type="checkbox"/> My availability is in the future - _____ | |
| Comments _____ | |