

# Jefferson Memorial

Cemetery and Funeral Home

401 Curry Hollow Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15236

Cemetery: 412-655-4500 • Funeral Home: 412-655-4501



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## 2009 FALL-WINTER NEWSLETTER

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### Dear Family & Friends,

Fall is upon us and winter will be here soon. The leaves have fallen and soon snow will be blanketing the grounds. We take this opportunity to bring you up to date on some new endeavors at Jefferson and to inform you of some of the historical features that the cemetery has collected over the past 80 years.

**Please remember — Before March 1st — Remove any items that you wish to keep. March 1st is the date we remove all winter decorations and begin spring cleanup. Mylar balloons are always prohibited.**

Once leaves start to fall, we make a concerted effort to remove them before winter decorations are placed on the graves. We do make every effort to protect your winter decorations by moving them off to the side when work in that area necessitates their relocation. When we place wreaths, we make sure that the name and location are on the back so we can replace it in the correct location.

We try very hard not to damage turf when we are making burials during the winter. The use of plywood to drive our heavy equipment on during inclement weather helps, but does not completely eliminate damage. We do try to repair any damage as soon as weather permits, but we are aware we occasionally miss something. Please don't hesitate to stop in the office to let us know if your family's spaces need repaired.

### Jefferson Memorial's Garden of the Faithful Friends:

What pet owners have been asking for is here. The pet section is open and we have made six pet interments to date. It is the option for pet owners to either purchase a single lot for their pet or they can purchase property within the garden for themselves to be buried with or near their beloved pet. And yes, you can prepurchase for your pet just as you have done for yourself. Those who have already purchased lots at Jefferson and have no interments can transfer their lots to Faithful Friends. Please call us if you would like additional pricing or have any questions regarding our new section.



### Our History:

In the Presidential Court, our first lawn crypt section, stands a magnificent life size bronze statue of George Washington by the french artist Jean-Antoine Houdon (1741-1828). He was arguably, one of the finest portrait sculptors in history, and as expected of such great

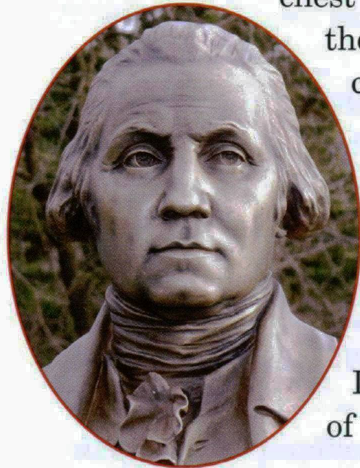
talent, his works can only be seen in museums today.

The statue of George Washington is depicted with his exact life size measurements at age 53, right down to his size 13 shoes and contains symbolic as well as realistic elements. Civilian supremacy over the military is depicted by the placement of Washington's right hand on a cane. His left hand on a fasces, made of 13 rods symbolizing the 13 states, rests on a plowshare - the agricultural foundation of the nation.

Harry Neel, president and third generation owner of the cemetery, credits the farsighted thinking of his father and grandfather, who built the cemetery, for purchasing the bronze statue when the Gorham Company of New York called to sell it to them. The cemetery's statue is the last of a total of 33 known casts made of the statue. It was crafted from the original, which Houdon began in the late summer of 1785. The artist, along with three assistants, stayed at Mt. Vernon taking detailed measurements of Washington's arms, legs, hands and

chest and made a mold of his face. Houdon then returned to Paris. The Statue was completed and shipped to the United

States in 1796, when it was installed in the Virginia State Capital in Richmond. During the 1850's the Virginia State Legislature authorized the casting of 11 bronze copies. Additional copies of the monument were also cast in the early 20th century, including 22 by Gorham. Bronze copies are located at the Art Institute in Chicago, the Metropolitan Museum in New York, in Northern Ireland, at the National Gallery in London, the Corcoran Gallery, the Statuary Hall in Washington D.C. and, of course, in Jefferson Memorial Cemetery.



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One of the many benefits of prearranging, or preplanning, for your cemetery and funeral home needs is that decisions and selections will be made together; family and friends will know where and how you would like your funeral and burial to be. Once you have made your pre-arrangements you will have the satisfaction of knowing you have relieved your family and friends of future financial and emotional burdens. When a death occurs and pre-arrangements have not been made, your loved ones must make decisions quickly that are often based on the heartbreak and sorrow that they are feeling. You pay less now than you inevitably will pay at a later date and you can budget your payments. Savings and insurance money can then be used for living expenses - not for final arrangements.

For many years Jefferson Memorial Cemetery and Funeral Home has helped families make affordable decisions. If you would like to receive information about cemetery or funeral home needs, please call or mail the enclosed card. There is someone in the general office Monday through Friday 9:00 until 5:00, Saturday 9:00 until 4:30 to answer any questions or concerns you might have.



## Jefferson's Radio Station on 88.7 FM

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While visiting Jefferson Memorial Park, you can now tune your radio to 88.7FM which is our private radio station. This station plays a 20 minute program with 2-3 minute segments dealing with our history, grief support, reflection, and music. The radio station is a brand new concept for us. We'd appreciate if you listen to the program and stop in our office to share your comments about Prayer in the Air. You can also listen to it at [www.prayerintheair.net](http://www.prayerintheair.net).

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