



# SOUTHERN MAINE VETERANS' MEMORIAL CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

83 Stanley Road, Springvale, Me 04083  
southernmaineveteranscemetery.org

Chairman  
Joe Doiron

January 2, 2019

Vice Chairman  
Dale Midgley

Dear Members of City Council,

Treasurer  
James E. N. Bachelder

The Southern Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery, located in Springvale Maine, was created to honor veterans in our communities with a final resting place that is garnished with reverence and perennial beauty.

Secretary  
Ron Rivard

The State is responsible only for general maintenance: mowing grass, plowing snow, and opening and closing graves. Beautification projects for the cemetery are the sole responsibility of the Southern Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery Association [SMVMCA].

Trustees  
Curtis Mills  
Ray Parent

SMVMCA is a 501[c]3 non-profit organization and we are not funded by state or by federal money. SMVMCA members are volunteers and our ornamentation projects are supported by public and private donations. Our organization created a website: <http://www.southernmaineveteranscemetery.org/wpress/> and we have a Face Book page to share information with the public.

Ex Officio  
Scott Brown

Board Members  
Bob Champagne  
Penny Mills  
Roger Watson  
Brad Hoffman  
Dick Langlais  
John Flagler

We raised money to purchase a display cabinet for Military memorabilia. In 2016 we erected and dedicated a service monument honoring veterans of the past, present and future. November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ending of WWI. On that date at 11:00 A M we dedicated a monument honoring the veterans of WWI.

Health issues with Association members and families caused us to delay installation Of the POW/MIA monument until 2019. We are confident that we will achieve our goal.

Our association continues to add ornamental features to this cemetery. We are on a lengthy fundraising campaign as we strive to reach our goals of erecting monuments, planting flowers and general beautification of this cemetery to show the families of these veterans and the world that we have not forgotten those individuals or their sacrifice.



We have a memorial walkway to provide families with a tangible way to honor departed veterans whose remains may be interred elsewhere. Families or individuals may purchase and place memorial monuments or personalized pavers along this walkway. Selling these personal monuments and pavers is one of the means for our association to raise essential funds for larger projects and improvements to Southern Maine Veteran's Cemetery.

This cemetery opened in August of 2010, and over 1,200 burials have taken place here since that opening. Families from Maine, New Hampshire, and from areas beyond find peace in this cemetery. SMVC serves the veterans in your community by providing free local burial options to qualifying veterans as well as to his or her eligible family members.

SMVMCA is committed to serving the needs and wishes of these veterans and to their families who have lost loved ones, or who are faced with difficult end of life decisions. As of August 31, 2018, there are 94 veterans and/or spouses from Biddeford interred in the Veterans Cemetery; an increase of 33 since August 31 of 2017, that number is sure to increase in future years.

Our members listen to concerns from families who have used our committal shelter for their final service. The shelter is a flawed government design and neither federal or state governments are willing to accept responsibility for necessary alterations. The financial burden of retrofitting the structure to accommodate this community's need falls upon SMVMCA and we strive to meet the needs of the people we serve.

As a service to your veteran community, we ask that you consider making a donation of \$1,000.00 in your next budget process. We humbly request annual financial support from your community as we look forward to this cemetery's future.

Thank you, for your consideration.

*Ron Rivard*

Ron Rivard

Secretary

SMVMCA

83 Stanley Road

Springvale, ME 04083

207-636-3319

[ronrita@metrocast.net](mailto:ronrita@metrocast.net)