



January 1995

Tip O'Neill Memorial Placed in Congressional Cemetery

A memorial to the late Speaker of the House Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, Jr. has been placed by his family in Congressional Cemetery. Speaker O'Neill died in his home state of Massachusetts on January 6, 1994 and was buried on Cape Cod. The plain black granite marker sits near the Public Vault. It lists his life dates and the leadership positions that he held in the U.S. House of Representatives.

The O'Neill monument is unique among the Congressional memorials. It is a departure from the squarish design by Benjamin Latrobe first used in 1807 and as recently as 1981. Perhaps Sen. George Hoar's observation that the Latrobe design "added a new terror to death" was shared by other fellow citizens of Massachusetts. The Latrobe cenotaphs were built by Congress to memorialize Members who died in office while Speaker O'Neill enjoyed seven years of retirement. The monument was not funded by the government.

It is the only memorial that the Speaker had considered in his lifetime. When he was at Congressional Cemetery in 1981 to dedicate the cenotaph in memory of Reps. Hale Boggs and Nick Begich, he turned to Lindy Boggs and said, "I hope they do something like this for me someday." He mentioned this to his family as well, and never indicated any other way in which he wished to be remembered.

Tip O'Neill succeeded John F. Kennedy as a member of the House in 1953 and served until 1987, the last ten years as Speaker. He had the longest continuous tenure of any Speaker of the House.

As a footnote, one Speaker of the House is interred at Congressional a few yards south of the O'Neill site. Philip Pendleton Barbour was a member of the House 1814-1825 and 1827-1830, Speaker 1823-1825, and Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, 1836 - 1841.



Congressional Looks for Additional Board Members

The Board of Directors for Historic Congressional Cemetery plays an active role in charting the direction of the Cemetery. The Directors represent a wide range of individuals, including local residents, history enthusiasts, and business people.

Some of our current board members will be leaving the board after having served for many years. This leaves us with openings for two or three additional board members. If you or someone you know is interested in contributing your time and energy to a very worthwhile cause please contact Joe Pokorney (202) 659-8395. Serving on the Board of Directors is a way of helping to ensure that Congressional Cemetery continues its slow but steady progress towards becoming a fully restored historic site and cemetery.



Regular Tours to be Offered

Beginning March 11, regular tours of the cemetery will be offered by reservation on the second Saturday of each month. Superintendent John Hanley or an equally capable guide will show visitors many distinctive and historic sites. Tours will begin at 11:00 AM. A \$5.00 contribution is requested of each participant. One should expect a considerable amount of walking throughout the grounds. Reservations may be made by calling Superintendent Hanley at 543-0539.

The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery

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