

The Association for the Preservation of  
Historic Congressional Cemetery  
Established 1807  
Fall 2002 Newsletter

### **Hillhouse Estate to HCC**

#### Floridian Donated \$28,000

John C. Hillhouse, Jr., author, clergyman, reporter, scholar, speaker, and theologian, added one last appellation to his good name: philanthropist. To our great fortune, Mr. Hillhouse remembered Congressional in his estate planning with a \$28,000 boost for our endowment fund.

While Mr. Hillhouse earned his paycheck as a writer for the Racial Data Group, a multimedia company providing secure communications services in the Asian telecommunications market, his avocation was theology and religious leadership.

An ordained minister, Mr. Hillhouse served in a number of Baptist churches in Indiana, Maryland, and Florida as a preacher, teacher, and writer. He  
*(Continued on Page 7.)*

### **Trees Ravaged by Storm**

#### 20 Trees down or damaged

Another intense storm swept across Capitol Hill on August 3<sup>rd</sup> wreaking extensive damage to our tree population. Five trees were completely downed and another 15 had severe limb damage. One of the downed trees knocked over a 15 foot obelisk but fortunately did not break the 150 year old stone. Another felled five markers over near Barney Circle.  
*(Continued on Page 5.)*

### **PLCAA Returns**

#### Professional TLC Applied

The Professional Lawn Care Association of America returned to Congressional Cemetery for the second year in a row on July 22 to donate a day's worth of professional tender loving care (TLC) for our grounds. Estimated saving for Congressional: \$9,000.

In a project called Renewal & Remembrance, four major lawn care companies volunteered their time, skills, and equipment to help spruce up Congressional Cemetery. A much larger contingent of lawn care companies spent the day at Arlington National Cemetery.

The groups taking part at Congressional this year were Lawn Doctor, Inc., Natural Lawns, Inc., Valley Crest Environmental, and Davey Tree Experts.

Valley Crest arrived bright and early, donating their landscape services to the gatehouse gardens at the main gate. The Valley Crest crew added yellow daylilies, pink  
*(Continued on Page 3.)*

### **Congressional Joins CFC**

#### Payroll Deductions Now Possible

For those of us whose monthly budget can't quite accommodate that large check we always intend to write, there is now an easy way to make your contribution. Congressional joined the Combined Federal Campaign. The CFC allows federal employees to make charitable contributions directly from their paychecks.



The CFC is an easy way to help the Association meet its historic preservation goals, so please remember us when you fill in your card. Congressional's code number is: **7537**. ?

### **SAT Work Completed**

#### Over 80 Gravestones Restored

Dean Reudrich and his crew have come to the end of their summer-long restoration work funded by the Save America's Treasures grant. The \$106,000 project was even more successful than we hoped. Dean and his crew toiled under an unforgiving heat wave, completing the restoration of over 80 tombstones, box tombs, and table top markers.  
*(Continued on Page 5)*

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[congressionalcemetery@mail.org](mailto:congressionalcemetery@mail.org)

## Canine Corner

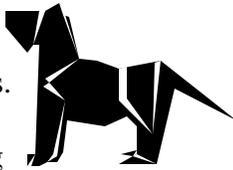
Congressional Cemetery is famous for its large community of dogwalkers. For eighteen years now the dogwalkers have been a significant part of Congressional Cemetery's community.

Financially, the dogwalkers are major contributors to the Association. Membership dues and fees from the dogwalkers make up about 25% of our annual operating budget, over \$40,000. In addition, the dogwalkers raised another \$19,000 last year toward the Endowment Fund.

The dogwalkers also provide almost round the clock security with the earliest walkers passing the front gate around six am and the latest leaving around ten pm. The dogwalking community is very protective of the grounds and keeps an eye out for anything out of the ordinary.

Plus, the dogwalkers are great volunteers.

Most of our 80 - plus Spring



Clean-up crew are dogwalkers and many of our smaller projects are completed with a smile by pet owners grateful for the privilege of using the grounds.

This spirit of community makes Congressional a great asset to Capitol Hill. In addition to all the local history and life stories within our gates, our dogwalkers keep the cemetery grounds very much a living and thriving part of the larger Capitol Hill community.

To protect this privilege and to avoid overcrowding, the board has placed a cap on the dogwalker memberships. There is currently a waiting list to take advantage of that privilege. ?

## Budget & Finance

### Budget Falling Behind Goals

As we move into the third quarter of 2002, the income side of our budget looks like it got stalled in the first quarter. With contributions down from previous years, the board postponed or canceled several aspects of our planned program for this year.

Our modest renovation plans included a much needed \$5,000 renovation of the gatehouse washroom and about \$2,000 of electrical work in the chapel. But the lack of funding compelled us to resort to quick fixes for some of the work and postponement for other needs. We were able to repair the hot water heater but the thermostat is still falling out of the wall and the air conditioners are struggling.

On the bright side, we expected about \$1,000 of repair work on our ancient backhoe but one of our great volunteers, Bob Dalton, was able to patch it together for another year. In a similar vein, we budgeted \$3,000 for removal of dangerous dead trees in the yard. The PLCAA came to the rescue here to remove two of them and trim another. (See story on page 1.)

While we have been able to get by so far on generous sweat equity and postponed upkeep maintenance, we cannot continue in that mode. Our very real maintenance needs in the gatehouse and chapel must receive some attention before the lack of maintenance begins to affect the structural integrity of the buildings. Your generous contributions are our only hope. Please consider making a tax deductible contribution today. ?

## New Board Members

We have the good fortune to welcome two new board members. James Brookshire of Springfield, Virginia. Jim and his wife Peggy rounded up 65 volunteers for the Lutheran Brotherhood's Join Hands Day June 15. In his day job, Jim tackles complex dispute resolution problems for the Justice Department. Farleigh Earhart joins us as a representative of Historic Christ Church. Farleigh is already active in the DC Heritage Coalition and the DC Preservation League. Farleigh is an attorney with the Smithsonian. We're quite happy to have "can-do" folks like Jim and Farleigh join our board. ?

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## Mechling Family Reunion

The Mechling Family gathered at Congressional August 3<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate their heritage. Mechlings from across the U.S. took time out of their whirlwind tour of DC to remember their forbearers with a small service in our chapel. ?

## Board Members

Linda Harper – Chair,  
Melvin Mason – Vice Chair,  
Sandy Schmidt – Treasurer,  
Patrick Crowley – Secretary,  
Dudley Brown, Carolyn Cheney,  
Lisa Rauschart, Sam Kilpatrick,  
Rev. Judith Davis, Dawn Warfle,  
Fred Davis, Kevin Hildebrand,  
Farleigh Earhart,  
& Jim Brookshire.

*The Association for the Preservation of Historic Congressional Cemetery is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of Historic Congressional Cemetery.  
All donations are tax deductible.*

## **Quantum Leap Theory**

### How Does Our Endowment Grow?

Our Endowment Fund operates under two growth models. One is the normal market-based growth model that relies on the stock market to bring gains on our nest egg. The second and more difficult growth model is the Quantum Leap Model.

In quantum mechanics, electrons tend to stay in orbit around a proton until suddenly jolted by some unknown stimulus. Our endowment fund model mimics this phenomenon in requiring an outside stimulus to knock it into higher orbits.

That outside stimulus is, of course, your contributions. Every deposit into the fund is matched by the Congressional appropriation, causing the Fund to leap into higher orbits. Donations over \$250 to Congressional go directly to the Fund. Please consider making your Quantum Leap today. All contributions are tax deductible. ?

## **Fall Guest Lectures**

The Board is pleased to present two guest lecturers this autumn.

Our first speaker, William Allen, is an architectural historian for the Architect of the Capitol who will tell us the story of the U.S. Capitol and Dr. William Thornton (R33/S39).

Our second speaker is Anthony Pitch, author of The Burning of Washington, The War of 1812. Mr. Pitch will highlight the contributions of several patriots now interred at Congressional.

Lectures are held in our chapel and are open to the public - donations may be made at the door. Check our Calendar and web site for more details. ?

## **PLCAA Work**

*(Continued from Page 1.)*

astilbe, some ferns, and hydrangeas to the existing plantings. They also edged and mulched the existing beds on the west side of the gate house along the main entrance driveway. The \$2,000 donated make-over left the front and side gardens quite spiffy.

Davey Tree Experts brought along heavy equipment to take down two dead trees and trim limbs in danger of falling from another. In a fascinating display of skill, the Davey experts hoisted a tree - limbs and all - over the historic iron fence near the gatehouse. Davey Tree's gift saved us about \$3,000 in tree removal costs.



Lawn Doctor and Natural Lawns arrived at Congressional in an impressive caravan of vehicles, out of which emerged 16 lawn experts. These crews treated the entire 33 acres to a helping of weed control to wrestle back the chicory and other lawn weeds. The cost savings to Congressional: \$4,000.

The PLCAA representatives did a great job under a severe sun in 95 degree temperatures. We are very grateful for their hard work and their sincere concern for Congressional's restoration. Well done guys! ?

## **HL&SRGrant Awarded**

### Turk, Tracey, & Larry Chosen

The Historic Landscape & Structural Report, mandated by a 2002 Congressional appropriation spearheaded by Senator Byron Dorgan of North Dakota, has been awarded to Turk, Tracey & Larry, a firm from Maine that specializes in historic preservation analysis.

Turk, Tracey, & Larry bring a diverse group of consultants to our service. The research phase will analyze the organizational history, landscape history, funerary practices, and memorial objects. The conditions phase will analyze the buildings, vaults, gates, brick walls, utilities, and monuments. It will also analyze the existing landscape features including hardscape, paths, roadways, trees, invasive plants, and other vegetation. An assessment survey will be made of 1,400 gravestones during this phase as well.

The Final Report will then recommend short term and long term treatment options for any conditions that need remediation (and there are a lot of them). The study will also recommend short term and long term maintenance plans so we can keep the grounds in stable healthy condition.

The review committee for the contract consisted of a representative from the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, William Dupont of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Linda Harper, Chair of the Association, and Ron Kagawa of Virginia Politech's Landscape Design School.

The final wrap up for the Report is targeted for July of 2003. We'll keep you posted. ?

## **Robert Creighton Murphy: U.S. Consul at Shanghai, Brigade Commander, National Scapegoat**

Robert Creighton Murphy (1827-1888), born in Chillicothe, Ohio, was the son of William Sumpter Murphy (1798-1844), a lawyer and orator (“the Patrick Henry of the West”) whose campaigning for Harrison and Tyler in 1840 earned him two diplomatic appointments, the second being Charge d’Affaires at the Republic of Texas (1843-44).

At 17, Robert Murphy interrupted his college studies to serve as Special Messenger for the government, carrying a Treaty of Annexation to his father at Galveston, a few months before the latter’s untimely death of yellow fever in July 1844.

After college (Miami, ’45), law school, practice and a stint with the Mexican Boundary Commission, in 1853 Murphy was appointed U.S. Consul at Shanghai, China. He was the first salaried U.S. consul in China, his predecessors having been merchants. He departed for China after marrying Lavinia Lyne of D.C. in August.

He arrived at Shanghai at a critical moment (Feb. 1854) and, working with able experienced people, appears to have played a useful role in creating key institutions of the International Settlement, namely the Municipal Council, the Volunteer Corps and the reformed Maritime Customs. Two contributions which may fairly be credited to him are 1) the removal of the Consulate from the quarters of the leading American firm, Russell & Co. and 2) by sitting jointly with a Chinese official to hear lawsuits in which Chinese were pitted against foreigners, he anticipated the Mixed Court by a decade.

After the departure in late 1854 of his superior, U.S. Commissioner Robert McLane, Murphy’s path was less smooth. He was critical of the intimacy of some U.S. officials with U.S. merchants, and could not avoid controversy when merchants sought official support to pursue questionable commercial goals.

In January 1856, Murphy took his wife and infant daughter home,

apparently after Mrs. Murphy lost a child. He was back at his post in August, but in March 1857 took leave for health reasons, and, back in Washington in June, resigned.

He sought another overseas post in a healthier climate. However, the new U.S. Commissioner, William Reed, who arrived in China eight months after Murphy’s departure, reported that he had left the Consulate in the charge of a known inebriate, who had become totally incapacitated and departed. Murphy was not given another post.

In 1858, he moved to Wisconsin, having been hired by ex-Attorney General and Commissioner to China Caleb Cushing to manage investments in the St. Croix valley. When the Civil War started, he obtained an appointment as Colonel commanding the 8th Wisconsin Infantry.

Murphy’s military career went smoothly at first. In May 1862 he was given command of a brigade. After that it was downhill, and, based on the available evidence, we may wonder whether Murphy had the training, experience, talent or temperament to command large units in modern warfare, or even to get on with soldiers.

In September 1862, assigned to guard a supply depot at Iuka, Mississippi, he withdrew in the face of a much larger enemy force. For failing to destroy the supplies, he was arrested and court-martialed. He defended himself without difficulty, and was acquitted of all charges, but the acquittal drew an angry printed dissent from Rosecrans, who called it a perversion of military justice.

After acquittal, Murphy went on leave, returned to duty in mid-December, and was assigned by Grant to guard a much larger supply depot at Holly Springs, Mississippi. At dawn on December 20, 1862, Holly Springs was attacked by several thousand Confederate cavalry under Van Dorn. Some 1,500 men were reported captured, and supplies worth an estimated \$400,000 to \$1.5 million were destroyed, setting back Grant’s Vicksburg

campaign four months. Murphy was arrested and then summarily dismissed from the Army, without a court martial. He became nationally notorious, and was subjected to particularly vicious treatment by Horace Greeley.

Murphy wrote President Lincoln, seeking a hearing or court martial. An 24-page review by the Adjutant General, Joseph Holt, concluded that Murphy’s account of his performance was reasonable, and that he deserved reinstatement, with a court martial to be at Grant’s discretion. Lincoln endorsed Holt’s recommendation. Grant stonewalled. Lincoln did not force the issue, and, at war’s end, Murphy’s case was unresolved.

For the next 15 years - before and after the Grant administration - Murphy tried to obtain a hearing. Several times he won the support of key Senators and Congressmen. Each time the Army stonewalled. A bill “for the relief of Robert C. Murphy” died in the Senate Military Affairs Committee in 1880. At that time, Murphy was Assistant Disbursing and Property Clerk in the Department of Agriculture, earning \$1,400 per year. Two years later, he was an ordinary post office clerk, earning \$600, which must have drastically impaired his ability to pay lawyers’ and lobbyists’ fees. He died in 1888, and was buried in an unmarked grave at Congressional Cemetery (R48/S101-6) in a plot he shares with his wife’s mother, aunt and grandparents .

Twenty years after Holly Springs, Grant was still so enraged by Murphy that he wrote in his memoirs, “The surrender of Holly Springs was most reprehensible and showed either the disloyalty of Colonel Murphy to the cause which he professed to serve, or gross cowardice.” If we take this judgment at face value, Grant had not yet made up his mind wherein Murphy’s problem lay. Yet it was Grant and those deferring to his wishes who denied Murphy his hearing. ?

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*Dean & Jason repair table memorial*



*Re-carved table legs cost \$700 each*

## **SAT Restoration**

*(Continued from Page 1.)*

The Labbe Vault near the gatehouse was given a complete renovation, restoring the brick façades and barrel vault. The Labbe Vault work is an indicator of future costs. Although it is one of the smaller vaults, the restoration cost almost \$20,000. The Cultural Resource & Historic Landscape Assessment study will provide a good estimate of the cost to repair the other 30 vaults.

In response to many inquiries by Association members about his work, Dean provided a special presentation of stone restoration work on August 13.

Visitors coming by this Fall can see the restoration work by looking for the yellow bows and cards we've attached to all the restored sites. The cost for a week's worth of restoration work is about \$5,000. We would like to bring Dean back next year to work on several more tabletop tombs, but we've come to the end of the SAT grant. If you'd like to contribute to the continuing restoration work at Congressional, please consider making a generous donation to bring Dean back next summer. ?

## **Richard Stock Memorial**

### *Tree Fund Established*

Board member Richard Stock passed away on Sunday, July 27, 2002 after a prolonged illness. Mr. Stock had been member and, at various times, an officer of the board since his selection to be the Christ Church representative 15 years ago.

Mr. Stock was a gentle and considerate man who brought grace and humor to his stewardship of the cemetery. His personal goal was to replenish the tree canopy that had become depleted after many years of decline. He oversaw the planting of over twenty trees on the cemetery grounds.

Mr. Stock was interred on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2002, along the main entrance road into the grounds. He is survived by his daughter Heather Lucero, her husband Karl, and a grandson.

Several admirers of Mr. Stock established a tree replenishment fund in his honor. Those wishing to honor Dick's memory may designate contributions to the Richard Stock Tree Fund. ?

## **Tree Damage**

*(Continued from Page 1)*

Luckily, the small statue of a seated woman "Contemplation" over Rosanne Coones (R43/S132) was spared when the holly tree fell all around it.

An examination of the damaged trees revealed extensive hollowing inside the limbs and trunks. It is a sad fact that the years of postponed maintenance and trimming have left almost all of our trees in poor health. Every big storm brings more fallen limbs.

Sadly, our "Big Tree" advocate, Dick Stock, was laid to rest the morning the storm took out so many of his beloved big trees. The tree fund established in Dick's name already has \$1,000 and 8 trees on the way. It's a great way to honor a good man. ?

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## **Eagle Scout Project**

Boy Scout Ryan Sullivan will earn his Eagle at Congressional Cemetery this fall with a renovation of the landscaping around the John Philip Sousa memorial. Join us November 6<sup>th</sup> to see the finished project and hear the Marine Corp Band. ?

### Picture This

Got a favorite great-great grandfather you like to see immortalized on our web site? How about a great aunt of your grandmother's first husband? We have every imaginable familial combination within our historic iron gates, and we'd like to include yours. Family histories and stories really bring history alive and that's what we want for our web site.

Send us pictures of your relatives buried at Congressional, and we'll add them to our web site. Check out the Rose Family below and in our web site for the obituaries that go with the photographs. ?

### Data Base/Web Site Help

Are you a nimble fingered friend? Sandy Schmidt, our staff historian, has collected enormous amounts of historical information on the folks buried at Congressional. We have obituaries, photographs, news clips, and burial logs all waiting patiently to be entered into data bases.

We hope to make it all available on our web site for family genealogy buffs and other researchers. So if you enjoy dealing with raw historical documents and have a facility with computer data input – Come on down! Email us or call the gatehouse for information. ?

### Daily Log Archive

Our thanks to the half dozen volunteers working on the transcription of our old Daily Log Book into a data base for the web site. Barbara Hacker-Allshouse, Erin Ennis, Lori Banks, Iris R. Guertin, Erica Jones, Sue Williams, and Amy Anderson deserve a round of applause for taking on this massive project.

The log book lists each interment from 1820 through 1982, giving the deceased's address, birth and death dates, cause of death, interment sites, and funeral home. The log is a great source for the study of Washington demographics. ?

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### **Web Site Donations**

See our web site obituary collections for the story behind these faces.



*Louisa O'Neil*



*Mary Arnett Rose*



*Lula Whyte*



*Ann Davis Sands*



*Adam L. Rose*



*Fred Whyte, Jr.*



*William Moore*



*William Anderson*

## Hillhouse

(Continued from Page 1.)

also served as director of the Florida Baptist Historical Society. His interest in history brought him to Congressional to research Rev. Obediah Brown (Range 55/Site 186), a Baptist minister who officiated at the funeral of Vice President Elbridge Gerry.

In addition to writing and editing for a local Florida newspaper, Mr. Hillhouse wrote a book about race track chaplaincy; Horses, Hofbeats & Halos. Mr. Hillhouse passed away on June 7, 2001. We are very grateful for his generosity. ?

## Volunteer Thanks

Our thanks to the sixteen students from various local DC middle schools gave up a summer day to help Congressional Cemetery August 12. The work day was sponsored by the DC Urban League. The students collected several truck loads of limbs from across the yard.

Our thanks also go to the 45 students from Georgetown University's Center for Social Justice who met at Congressional Cemetery on August 31 to help clear away more of the damage from the storm that swept through a couple weeks earlier. ?

## Cozy Wedding Chapel

### Three Weddings This Year

Our beautiful little 1903 chapel has been the host to three weddings this year where the happy couples had a quiet, intimate service in mind. Nestled in among the cherry trees at the center of the grounds, our chapel boasts wonderful stained glass windows, a traditional soaring wood ceiling, and seating for about 50. If you are looking for that perfect little spot for your nuptials, please contact the gatehouse office for further rental information, 202-543-0539. ?

**We need your help to restore Congressional.  
Invest in America today.**

### Congressional Quiz

President William Henry Harrison spent time in both the White House during his lifetime and our Public Vault after his death. How much time did he spend in each place? (Answer below)

- a) White House: one month  
Public Vault: three months
- b) White House: one term  
Public Vault: two months
- c) White House: one year  
Public Vault: one month

*President Harrison is famous for his long-winded, rain soaked inaugural address. Unfortunately, he caught pneumonia and died after serving only one month in the White House. His casket was held in the Public Vault for three months. ?*

I wish to join the effort to preserve this important piece of America's heritage by making a contribution to Congressional Cemetery.

? \$25 ? \$50 ? \$100 ? \$250 ? Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Donations above \$250 are deposited in our Endowment Fund, which is managed by The National Trust, and matched by our Congressional Appropriation.*

? My check is enclosed (made payable to "Congressional Cemetery").

? Please bill my credit card.

? Visa ? MasterCard ? AmEx ? Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

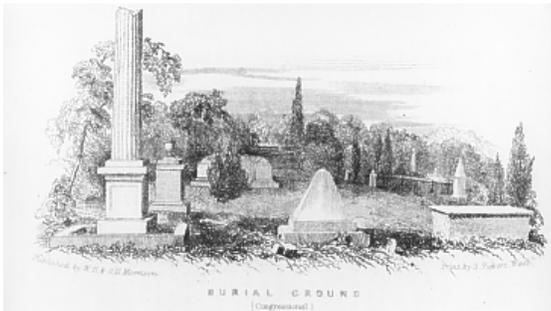
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

*Congressional Cemetery is a 501(C) 3 organization  
All contributions are tax deductible.*

The Association for the Preservation of  
Historic Congressional Cemetery  
1801 E Street, Southeast  
Washington, DC 20003

**Non-Profit**  
**U.S. Postage**  
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**Suburban, MD**  
**Permit No. 6511**



Congressional Cemetery is a designated site  
on the National Register of Historic Places

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### **Congressional Calendar**

**October 6** – The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual “Tour de Graves” bicycle ride thru Capitol Hill ends at Congressional at 3:00 pm. The theme is Women of Historic Capitol Hill. Contact Sewall-Belmont House to register, 202-546-1210.

**October 13** – Annual Blessing of Animals at our chapel, 5:00 pm. Open to the public.

**October 19** – Annual Fall Yard Sale outside our front gate at 18<sup>th</sup> St. & Potomac Ave - 9 am to 4 pm. Donations welcome! Bring donated items to the gatehouse between 9:30 am and 1:30 pm. Or call Patrick at 202-502-8489.

**October 19** – Join the Alpha Phi Omega fraternity for our Autumn clean up. 9 am to noon.

**October 31** – Halloween Organ Recital by A. J. Arnold, new music director for Historic Christ Church, at our chapel on the Cemetery grounds. 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm in half-hour performances. Open to the public/donations accepted at the door.

**November 3** – All Saints Day Blessing at the chapel 11:00 am. Open to the public.

**November 6** – The United States Marine Band will perform John Philip Sousa pieces by his graveside at 10 am. Open to the public.

**November 17** – William Allen, architectural historian of the Architect of the Capitol will discuss the Capitol Building – past & future. 3:00 pm in our chapel. Open to the public/donations accepted at the door.

**December 1** – Mr. Anthony Pitch will talk about his latest book The War of 1812 & The Burning of Washington. 3:00 pm in our chapel with grave site walk. Open to the public/donations accepted at the door.

**Combined Federal Campaign**  
**Please consider designating Congressional**  
**Cemetery as your charitable deduction next year.**  
**Our CFC Code number is 7537.**