Supporting Each Other in Times of Need

By Dianne Brown, Outreach Archivist

Gate of Heaven Cemetery provides a place of peace, prayer, and remembrance for the faithful. While the cemetery staff is here to assist loved ones in their time of grief, support can also be experienced in our own personal relationships. Reaching out to our family and friends is an important aspect towards dealing with the loss of a loved one.

I recently discovered the value of this type of personal support when I met Diane Hutzel who was sitting by her husband Michael's grave in the Veteran's Garden of Section 28. Through our conversation, I learned that there are other veteran spouses whom she met when each of them paid respects at their own husband's graves. Each grave was in close proximity to each other.

I reached out to learn more about this group of four women who came together in unexpected friendship to support and minister to each other. Although others have offered help, they expressed how difficult it was to explain to people not in their same situation. While some may attend additional grief support groups, these spouses mainly rely on each other. They are more comfortable discussing their struggles and encounter no shame or judging when they share their feelings with each other.

I also had the pleasure of researching four military veterans. By the end of our first meeting and personal sharing, I understood the special relationships that have developed over the commonalities of long term marriages, military life experiences, and the need of relying on others experiencing similar lives.

Diane, MJ, Mary and Georgia will continue to be available to support and encourage each other as well as others who they may meet in the Veteran's Garden of Section 28.

Preparing Today for Peace Tomorrow

Register for a no obligation Pre-Planning Seminar

November 25th | 11:00 am, 2:00 pm, or 6:00 pm

Register with a Family Service Advisor at www.gateofheaven.org | (513) 489-0300

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