April 16, 2023

Dear All,

The annual Shady Grove Box & Pie Supper and Live Auction 2023 will be held on Saturday, April 29, 4:00 p.m. It will be the 106th Box Supper fundraising event in Shady Grove Cemetery history. Funds earned will benefit the perpetual care of the cemetery. Sadly, we can no longer say “consecutive Box Supper” due to the coronavirus cancellations in 2020 and 2021, and without the two cancellations, it would’ve been the 108th. Much appreciation to our wonderful cemetery supporters who have continued to love and support the cemetery, whether financially, with words of encouragement, or by acts of service! Many, many thanks to you!!

Come join us in the old church building for an old-time social and fund-raising custom of past generations that has continued throughout the years since 1915. Old-timers commonly referred to this event as the Pie Supper, so pies are definitely great items to bring, along with any other desserts, breads, jams & jellies, etc. The “box” in Box Supper refers to bringing a meal in a decorated box, container, basket, or dish filled with ítems such as, but not limited to, BBQ or fried chicken or ham or sandwiches, along with sides and trimmings. Homemade fried pies, cakes, peanut brittle, cookies, and brownies may also be boxed and auctioned. Some folks bring plants, arts & crafts items, collectibles & vintage ítems to auction instead of food ítems. The original custom was to bring a box or basket or dish of food items which would be auctioned to the highest bidder who in turn would share with the person who prepared it. Tradition throughout the years has evolved into spreading a big meal after the auction, consisting of everyone’s food items, for all to share and enjoy. It is a wonderful time of fun, food, and fellowship, among folks with a common goal…to continue the loving care of our beautiful country cemetery. Extra special thanks to Cary Spence Lawncare for the excellent attention that he and his yard crew give to Shady Grove Cemetery! Many thanks to them!!

Also, we will have our traditional drawing for an old-time, handmade full-sized quilt, which was pieced by the late Ruth (McAllister) Bailey and quilted by the late Geneva (Messimer) Kennemer, both longtime church and cemetery supporters. *(Quilt pictures are on our Facebook page and on our website.)* **This is the last quilt that we’ll ever have made by these two ladies, so don’t miss your chance to win it.**Tickets are $1 each or 6 for $5 and will be available at the event for purchase. (As you will remember, our tickets are not fancy but just recycled cracker box squares with your name and phone number.) You do not have to be present to win. The youngest person in attendance on Box Supper night will draw the lucky winner! This is another special tradition which has continued throughout the years. Pre-sales may be made by contacting me at 903-438-7455 or contacting any director. Ticket money may be sent online via PayPal under the Donate tab on our website, but be sure to denote “friends and family” to avoid a fee. Let me know if you use PayPal, so I can be looking for it and get your tickets timely completed for you and dropped in the drawing bag. I have other options available to send ticket money such as Venmo, Zelle, CashApp, and Square, so give me a call, if you plan to use any of those payment methods. And, of course, we accept cash or checks for ticket purchases.

Your generosity and willingness to contribute are important to the success of the perpetual care of the

cemetery. Donations to non-profit organizations such as the cemetery are tax-deductible. Checks may be designated “in honor of” or “in memory of” a loved one and may be sent to: **Sherry Finney, SGCA Secretary/Treasurer**; **P.O. Box 861**; **Winnsboro, TX 75494. Also, please notify me of any**

**changes in your contact information, especially changes in your mailing address.**

Just a short recap of Memorial Day 2022, Browning Stew & Silent Auction 2022, and Wreaths Across America 2022…**Memorial Day – August 14, 2022:** Brant Ingram was our guest speaker, and Ron & Cathy Lawson provided the old-time gospel music. Services were dedicated to the 34 who were deceased between August 2019 and August 2022. 45 folks were in attendance and a total of $8,858 was received in donations, including mailed donations and a one-time $5,000 contribution. **Browning Stew & Silent Auction – November 5, 2022:** Delicious chicken stew, chili, and desserts were served to 81 cemetery supporters. $2,660 was earned through the stew/chili sales and silent auction proceeds. Carl & Sonya Smith and family cooked the campfire stew, and Ron & Cathy Lawson sang country music tunes. A good time was had by all. **Wreaths Across America – December 17, 2022:** 77 attendees participated in our wreaths event and helped lay wreaths on 104 veterans’ graves. Larry Fleishman was the guest speaker, and patriotic music was provided by Deeva McMinn and Ron & Cathy Lawson. The Carl E. Azbell American Legion Post 340, Winnsboro, TX, posted the colors. It was a fabulous day filled with patriotism and appreciation for the sacrifices of our veterans. Many thanks to those who participated and supported this emotionally moving event!!

**Plan ahead now…**

* **Memorial Day 2023** - Sunday, August 13, 2023, 10:30 p.m. (2nd Sunday in August)
* **Browning Stew 2023** - Saturday, November 4, 2023, 4;00 p.m. (1st Saturday in November)
* **Wreaths Across America 2023** - Saturday, December 16, 2023, 1:00 p.m. (3rd Saturday in December)

Thank you to our wonderful directors who love our cemetery and are willing to give of their time and energy! Whatever it takes, they are there…ready and willing. Much appreciation to you all!! The Directors of the Shady Grove Cemetery Association, Inc. and their current terms are as follows:

* Larry Finney, President (2021-2023)
* Sherry Mills Finney, Sec./Treas. (2021-2024)
* Kathy Brewer Brown (2022-2025)
* Marilyn Browning Burrow (2020-2023)
* Sally Bellomy Richardson (2022-2025)
* Belinda Baber Riley (2020-2023)
* Joyce Wisdom Vanginault (2021-2024)

Sincerely,

Sherry Finney, SGCA Secretary/Treasurer

903-438-7455 (Sherry’s cell); 903-438-3757 (Larry’s cell)

Email: sgca1855@gmail.com

Website: [www.shadygrovecemeterywoodcountywinnsborotexas.com](http://www.shadygrovecemeterywoodcountywinnsborotexas.com)

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*Search* for us on Facebook and *request* to join: Friends of the Stout Community, Winnsboro, Texas