April 16, 2024

Dear All,

We have two upcoming events at Shady Grove Cemetery. First, on **Friday, April 26, 10:00 a.m.,** in recognition of Confederate History Month, celebrated in Texas each April since 1999, the Sons of Confederate Veterans Mechanized Calvary (motorcycles) of the Upshur County Patriots, Camp # 2109, Sons of Confederate Veterans will visit Shady Grove Cemetery to pay tribute and respect to the memory of our fourteen Civil War veterans. There will be a formal roll call of these fourteen veterans to be answered by descendants of these soldiers as well as a brief discussion of the purpose of Confederate History Month, which is to preserve the history and legacy of these heroes. To honor our Confederate ancestors as well as recognize our heritage, the non-controversial First National CSA Flag will be placed at the gravesite of each Civil War veteran. The program will last about thirty minutes.

Second, the annual Shady Grove Box & Pie Supper and Live Auction 2024 will be held on **Saturday, April 27, 4:00 p.m.** It will be the 107th 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 109th. 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!!

On the 27th, 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 and quilted by the late Temple Mills Miller, longtime church and cemetery supporter. Temple was the daughter of James Pinkney Mills II and Vila Mae Gearner Mills Steele and step-daughter of Thomas Austin Steele. Temple was married to the late Charlie Miller. The quilt was donated by Linda Miller Taylor, Temple’s daughter. *(Quilt pictures are on our Facebook page and on our website.)* 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 look for it and get your tickets timely completed for you and dropped in the drawing bag. Please call me, if you need to use any other 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.**

**Plan ahead now…**

* **Memorial Day 2024** - Sunday, August 11, 2024, 10:30 p.m. (2nd Sunday in August)
* **Browning Stew 2024** - Saturday, November 2, 2024, 4:00 p.m. (1st Saturday in November)
* **Wreaths Across America 2024** - Saturday, December 14, 2024, 1:00 p.m. (2nd 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 and contact numbers are as follows:

* Larry Finney, President (2023-2025)…903-438-3757
* Sherry Mills Finney, Sec./Treas. (2021-2024)…903-438-7455
* Kathy Brewer Brown (2022-2025)…903-850-7798
* Marilyn Browning Burrow (2023-2026)…903-975-0869
* Sally Bellomy Richardson (2022-2025)…805-423-0419
* Belinda Baber Riley (2023-2026)…903-629-5292
* Joyce Wisdom Vanginault (2021-2024)…903-629-5224

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