



**Curlew Hills**  
MEMORY GARDENS

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www.CurlewHills.com



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## A Little About Us...

Established in 1979, Curlew Hills Memory Gardens is an independent, family-owned funeral home & cemetery. With a 6,500+ square foot funeral home and a pristine 30-acre cemetery, the company provides comprehensive funeral, cremation and burial services to families of Pinellas, Pasco and Western Hillsborough counties.



Located at 1750 Curlew Road in Palm Harbor, many recognize Curlew Hills Memory Gardens for its sprawling and lushly green cemetery which features four



lakes and mature trees amid the traditional ground burial sites and large private mausoleums.

Interestingly, the cemetery also features the state's only authentic pet cemetery with a scenic gazebo and below & above ground burial options. For more information on Curlew Hills Memory Gardens and the services the company offers, feel free to visit or call us any time at 727.789.2000.

# Curlew News

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An emotional ribbon cutting ceremony was led by Congressman Gus Bilirakis. He was joined by the parents of Army Corporal Frank Gross, who was killed in action in 2011 as well as Kim Allison the mother of Army Spc. Zack Shannon, who died in a helicopter crash in Afghanistan in 2013.

Curlew Hills Memory Gardens was extremely proud to be the first on Florida's West Coast to display the "Remembering Our Fallen" exhibit. On Saturday, March 21, families, dignitaries and news media gathered in our chapel to view this one-of-a-kind memorial. The Florida Patriot Riders ceremonially escorted the "Remembering Our Fallen" exhibit to Curlew Hills Memory Gardens the day prior to the event.

This special exhibit features the names and photos of Florida soldiers who have died fighting the War on Terror since September 11, 2001. There are 304 Florida soldiers who died from wounds suffered in the war zone while wearing our country's uniform that are honored on the display.

"There is a huge emotional impact when you witness this amazing exhibit," comments Keenan Knopke, President and CEO of Curlew Hills Memory Gardens. "We are honored to have brought it to our community."

This exhibit was created in 2010 by Bill and Evonne Williams, whose mission was to honor the memory of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, to provide comfort to friends and family of the fallen, and to remind others of the tremendous cost paid by some. Bill and Evonne Williams have four sons, all of whom serve in the military. It is the couple's hope that by 2016, all 50 state exhibits will be created and brought together for a National Tour.

### A Note From Our President



#### Keenan Knopke

After recently holding our 30th Annual Memorial Day Service, I am reflecting on this country's amazing

veterans, both past and present.

Curlew Hills has always been proud to support America's veterans. Whether that means paying respect to the brave soldiers from past wars such as WWII and Vietnam or showing appreciation to current soldiers who are bravely fighting the war on terrorism, we whole-heartedly honor them all.

It's important to take the time to remember the contributions of the people who risk their lives to protect our freedoms.

I was very touched to see how many young people attended our Memorial Day Service this year. It's a privilege to have the Boy Scouts place the wreath at our service. They are a wonderful representation of tomorrow's future leaders.

For our Veterans Day Service this Fall, we will be working to include more young people in the event. I am hoping by doing so we will bring together all generations to honor our military personnel who have fought to protect our country's freedom.



More than 450 guests came to celebrate Memorial Day at Curlew Hills this year. A sunny morning set the stage for our 30th annual Memorial Day Service, which was a beautiful remembrance to those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Our special Guest Speaker this year was outstanding. U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel Jared D. Hill spoke from the heart about what Memorial Day meant to him as a soldier. Colonel Hill's numerous awards include: Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Valorous Unit Award, the Bronze Star Medal for Valor and 2 Oak Leaf Clusters and the Purple Heart..

A highlight of this year's Memorial Day service was the display of the one-of-a-kind "Remembering Our Fallen" exhibit. People

of all ages gathered around to this special exhibit featuring the names and photos of 304 Florida soldiers who have died fighting the War on Terror since September 11, 2001.

Once again, the Memorial Day music was provided by the outstanding Palm Harbor United Methodist Church Choir. Their patriotic music brought guests to their feet in honor of the USA. We also all enjoyed the musical talents of Bones South trombone group. Both groups added great enjoyment to all.

## Curlew Hills Holds 8th Annual K-9 Memorial Service

### Meet Ericka McKibbin Funeral Director



Ericka has a friendliness and warmth that Texans are known for. Originally from San Antonio, Texas, she has been in this area for 25 years. With a genuine heart for helping people, Ericka has been a funeral director for 4 years. She chose the funeral

profession so she could make a difficult time easier for families by lessening their stress and providing a service that celebrates the life of their loved one. Ericka has a toddler son, whom she adores and that keeps her busy. She also enjoys boating, fishing and camping. "There is a true sense of family at Curlew Hills. Everyone here shares a passion for serving those in need."

In April, we hosted our 8th Annual K-9 Memorial Service here at Curlew Hills to honor some of the area's most dedicated law enforcement employees ...its K-9 service dogs.

K-9 service dogs and their handlers from many area police and sheriff's departments including the Clearwater Police Department and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office attended the service. At this year's memorial, the 56 dogs that are currently interred at the Memory Gardens were remembered and reflected upon.

Curlew Hills Memory Gardens features one of Florida's only authentic pet cemeteries. The company proudly donates burial plots in the pet cemetery to all service animals of both law enforcement agencies.

