The Bough

News of Evergreen Cemetery Association

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A Walk Through Evergreen Cemetery

Dale J. Fiore, CCE, General Manager

Finally, the cool breezes of Autumn are upon us and even though they will eventually bring down the leaves, it is nice to enjoy these crisp days after the humidity of summer. School is open and children are once more boarding busses and back to the daily ritual of the classroom. It is a renewal in some ways and a reminder of the beauty of living in the Northeast where we enjoy the passing from one season to another.

Alas, life follows this same pattern emerging in life at birth, moving into those days spent in the classroom, and how we looked forward to graduation and the opportunity to 'get a job' and 'go to work.'

An Uber driver reminded me how fortunate we are to be alive, at any age - 20s, 30s, 40s, 60s, or 80s. He rejoiced in the fact that he had lived long enough to enjoy life and shared photos of his grandchildren and told stories of enjoying this phase of his life. And he is right, we too oftentimes get caught up in the day to day and forget our good fortune and the opportunity to cherish each day.

If you're thinking about taking a walk, then where better to walk than Evergreen to enjoy our 85 acres of parklike grounds, see the trees turning beautiful colors of yellow, orange, and red and read the stories of those who have passed before us.

I like to read what family members have written about their loved one - a line from a poem or a psalm. I wonder why that poem or psalm; What made it so special to that particular person? We have so many people resting here with us at Evergreen with so much history and so many stories to be told.

Fall at the cemetery is a time of contemplation. Our thoughts can wander. And, as you can see from our seasonal flower program photo, Chrysanthemums are on our minds. It's definitely the flower of the season. This year we've chosen to highlight purple mums the symbol of royalty, dignity, admiration, and nobility. Perhaps even good fortune.

As you can see in our photo above, we are greeted each morning with the leaves that have filtered to the ground over night and although beautiful, from a maintenance standpoint, we will begin to gather the leaves into the center of the roads, and then we will pick them up and deliver them to become the compost for spring planting.

Our notable in this issue is Emanuel (Manny) J. Gomez, Sr. who worked during his lifetime at Winchester Repeating Arms, and was an organizing member of The Descendants of Connecticut 29th Colored Regiment an all black unit of the Civil War.



For More Information, to Search for a Loved One, or Purchase a Monument, Niche, or Flowers, please visit, **https://evergreencem.org/**



The leaves have drifted to the ground and have not yet been gathered.

Seasonal Flower Program



Order fall flowers to be placed at a gravesite or within the most beautiful cremation garden by the Columbarium. Do not forget your loved one during these cool and crisp days of fall. We're here to help. Just go online to order or give us a call.

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"Fall has always been my favorite season. The time when everything bursts with its last beauty, as if nature had been saving up all year for the grand finale."

Lauren DeStefano,*Wither*



Emanuel J. Gomez Sr. - 1929-2026 - Descendent of Connecticut 29th Colored Regiment

Emanuel J. Gomez, was born in New Haven in 1929 to Harry and Elizabeth (Brown) Gomez. He worked in New Haven at Winchester Repeating Arms from 1947 until his retirement in 1991. He was a member of the union and served an a conductor, and later legislative chairman.

Gomez was also the co-chairperson of the New Haven Peace Commission, Fostering a Culture of Peace in the Elm City. The Commission's founding roots extended from historical peace and anti-apartheid movements and helped to earn New Haven recognition as a United Nations Peace Messenger City. It is an official advisory body that supports the mayor and Board of Alderman in citizen protection and to reduce the risks of nuclear destruction through community education, resource libraries, and local peace programs. For more information, please visit https://peacecommission.org/

After Gomez retirement, he worked within the campus security department at Southern Connecticut State University.

Gomez was an organizing member of The Descendants of Connecticut 29th Colored Regiment C.V. Infantry, a non-profit organization that preserves the legacy of the historic all Black Civil War Unit. The organization was formed by families of the Black soldiers who served in Connecticut's first all-black Civil War regiment. The group raised funds and spearheaded the creation of the official monument at Crisuolo Park in New Haven, where the regiment trained in 1863 and 1864.

Gomez, was a humble man who showed his love for family, community, and church through action. He served as President of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, a national organization of



Black trade unionists and communty activists to fight for racial equality, workers' rights, and economic justice, and received a Proclamation from the City of New Haven, for a lifetime of Community Service, Greater New Haven, African American Historical Society.

Emanuel J. Gomez Sr. was a friend of Evergreen and to many people in New Haven. He is resting here with us.