



Blue Ridge Cemetery Guidelines

Blue Ridge Cemetery
FM 1771
Reagan, Texas

FORWARD...

Blue Ridge Cemetery is a private cemetery located adjacent to the Blue Ridge Baptist Church on FM 1771 in Falls County, Texas. In 1873, George Harlan donated land for the use and benefit of the Blue Ridge Baptist Church and for burial purposes. The Blue Ridge Cemetery was established for the burial of family members of Blue Ridge Baptist Church, other friends and relatives in the surrounding community, and their descendants. The Blue Ridge Cemetery Association was formed to collect funds and oversee the maintenance and care of the cemetery grounds. Fees, voluntary contributions, and income from invested funds presently support cemetery operations. A Board elected by Association Members at an annual meeting in May of each year currently manages ongoing cemetery operations in accord with Association By Laws. The Board may designate individuals or committees to oversee implementation of these guidelines and maintenance functions.

All cemetery property is considered sacred ground devoted to the burial of our loved ones. A respectful atmosphere must be maintained at all times and all visitors are requested to assist us in maintaining the beauty and tranquility of this place.

The following guidelines govern the use and maintenance of the Blue Ridge Cemetery and may be altered, amended, or updated at any time by the Blue Ridge Cemetery Association.

ARTICLE I: GENERAL PROVISIONS

- a. The privilege of burial or inurnment in Blue Ridge Cemetery is primary to families of Blue Ridge Baptist Church members, other friends and relatives in the surrounding community, their descendants, and regular donors to its upkeep.
- b. A fee schedule is listed at the end of this document.

- c. Opening and closing of graves and collection of fees prior to interment shall be overseen by a Board Designate.
- d. All fees or service charges are payable prior to or at the time of grave opening for any interment, inurnment, disinterment, etc. in accordance with the fee schedule in effect at the time the service is performed.
- e. Any non-cemetery personnel who damages any lot, tombstone, monument or other structure, or otherwise, does any injury in the cemetery shall be personally responsible for all damage or injury and in addition, if dispatched by an employer, the employer will also be liable.
- f. Prior approval by the Board designate must be obtained for the planting of shrubs or flowers in the cemetery. Unapproved plantings are subject to removal without notice. Please make proper arrangements with the Board designate prior to purchasing any trees, shrubs or flowers.
- g. All lots shall have flush borders and footstones only. No new fences, hedges, curbs or enclosures of any type are permitted on any burial plot. These items prevent proper maintenance of the gravesites and are subject to removal by cemetery personnel without notice. Enclosures in existence prior to 2005 will remain in place as long as they are properly maintained. The Cemetery Association is not responsible for maintenance of such enclosures.
- h. The Blue Ridge Cemetery Board shall not be held responsible for any damage to any monument caused by normal cemetery operations. Proper action shall be taken for any damage that occurs due to negligence on the part of any cemetery employee.
- i. The Blue Ridge Cemetery Board shall not be held responsible for damage to any trees, shrubs or flowers that occurs at the time of interment. All precautions will be taken to avoid any damage.
- j. The Board designate shall have the right, and it shall be their duty, to remove any trees or shrubs or part thereof on any cemetery lot if it is dangerous, inconvenient or detrimental to other lots, persons or work crews in the cemetery.
- k. Any disinterment shall be handled in conjunction with any and all laws pertaining to such operations. (See fee schedule.)
- l. To insure a permanent foundation, the Board designate shall oversee installation of all foundations.
- m. Vehicular access to the cemetery grounds is restricted. Walk in gates are open for visitors during daylight hours. Anyone needing access through the drive-through gates can contact the Board Designate at the numbers posted on the gates or under the Pavilion.

No person within the cemetery shall:

- a. Be present on the cemetery grounds between dusk and dawn without reasonable cause or permission from the Board designate.
- b. Operate a motor vehicle outside a designated carriageway or roadway or play, loiter or park any vehicle without having official business in the cemetery.
- c. Pick any flowers, wild or cultivated, if not owned by such person.
- d. Destroy, deface or remove any monument, tree, shrub, building, equipment or other object connected to the cemetery or any object for the purpose of the memory of a person interred in the cemetery.
- e. Sit, stand on or perform any other disrespectful act to a monument, grave marker, tomb or gravestone erected for the purpose of the memory of a person or persons interred in the cemetery. Any person or persons caught defacing or damaging any tombstones, monuments or other structures within Blue Ridge Cemetery, will be subject to prosecution to the full extent of the law.

ARTICLE II: FLOWERBEDS, POTTED PLANTS, VASES, URNS, ARTIFICIAL FLOWERS AND OTHER ADORNMENTS

- a. Flowerbeds and planting of borders around the lots is prohibited.
- b. In order to maintain a neat appearance throughout the cemetery, the Board designate may direct grounds crews to remove or mow over any flowerbeds, which become unsightly through lack of care.
- c. No large urns or potted flower containers may be permitted to block the path of the mowing equipment. If this occurs, the container shall be removed from the gravesite.
- d. Potted plants must be removed when the blossoms are dead.
- e. Cut flowers are permitted on a grave, but when flowers become withered, the flowers and container must be discarded or be subject to removal by cemetery personnel.
- f. All funeral floral pieces and containers must be removed when wilted or unsightly. Any person wishing to retain any or all floral pieces or containers must do so within forty-eight (48) hours after interment or inurnment. In no way shall the Blue Ridge Cemetery Board or cemetery personnel be responsible for any type of adornment.
- g. Any floral basket, flowerpot, wreath or any type of adornment that is left and becomes unsightly will be removed.
- h. Any and all glass jars, cans, crockery, boxes, baskets or any other implement used to water, hold or transport flowers that are left at the grave sites shall be considered an eyesore, and will be removed by the Board designate.

ARTICLE III: INTERMENTS AND INURNMENTS

- a. All interments and inurnments are subject to all requirements as outlined in state and local laws.
- b. The Blue Ridge Board designate shall oversee all opening and closing of graves.
- c. Only one upright monument is permitted on each grave site.
- d. Only one interment per grave is permitted, except by obtaining special permission from the Board designate. An infant burial over an adult grave may be permitted if the adult is buried at a sufficient depth. Two (2) cremations are permitted over another burial.
- e. Five (5) cremations are permitted on a single gravesite, provided there are no other vault burials on the grave.
- f. The funeral director, or funeral home, which arranges for opening and/or use of a grave, shall be responsible for payment of required fees prior to access.
- g. The following conditions shall be complied with before interment:
 - (1) All legal requirements and permits and (2) payment in full of the fees in existence on or prior to the time of access for grave opening. (See fee schedule.)

ARTICLE IV: DISINTERMENTS

- a. All disinterments are subject to all requirements as outlined in state and local laws.
- b. The Blue Ridge Cemetery Association requires payment of grave opening and closing fees prior to access for all interments, inurnments and disinterments. (See Fee Schedule)
- c. The person requesting access accepts all responsibility for the payment of such disinterment costs including damages to adjacent graves or other property. In no way will Blue Ridge Cemetery Association be responsible for any costs involved in interments, inurnments and disinterments.

ARTICLE V: LOTS & GRAVES

- a. Use of graves and lots is governed by the Blue Ridge Cemetery Association. Permission for burial or inurnment in Blue Ridge Cemetery does not convey ownership or title to the land.
- b. Use of graves & lots shall be arranged through the Board designate, who will show the lots and graves, which are available.

ARTICLE VI: MAINTENANCE FUND

a. Maintenance and care of the Blue Ridge Cemetery is funded by contributions of family members and loved ones of those buried there, fees charged at grave opening, and income from any invested funds. Contributions are essential and welcomed.

b. Expenditures for maintenance and care are subject to the usual and customary fiscal control of the Blue Ridge Cemetery Association and its duly authorized representatives.

ARTICLE VII: FEE SCHEDULE

The Blue Ridge Cemetery Association establishes the following fees to be charged for interment, inurnment, advance headstone placement, and disinterment rights (grave access, opening and closing), and maintenance in Blue Ridge Cemetery for each gravesite, burial, or lot:

1. Interment, inurnment, or advance headstone placement fee for access, opening and closing a grave, and future care and maintenance - \$500 to be paid prior to access for grave opening or headstone placement. This fee to be paid only once per grave site, burial, or lot.
2. For each footstone or special marker not to exceed 18 x 24 inches, \$100 shall be paid prior to placement. Special military or law enforcement markers will be exempt from this fee. Footstones shall be flush with the ground.
3. Disinterment fee - \$150 to be paid prior to access for grave opening and closing.

ARTICLE VIII: COMPLAINTS AND REQUESTS

a. Any person having occasion to make any complaint or request related to these guidelines shall make it to the Board Designate and not to an employee on the cemetery grounds.

b. Any decision of the Board Designate may be appealed to the Blue Ridge Cemetery Board.

*Revision Approved October 7, 2007
Blue Ridge Cemetery Association
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