Tours and Special Events

Indoor Mausoleum Tour
November 8 and December 13 at 9:00 a.m. in the Woodland Mausoleum

Holiday Remembrance Service
Friday, December 7
Program begins at 6:00 p.m. in the Woodland Mausoleum

History, Mystery, Murder, and Mayhem
November 1 at 4:00 p.m.
Kettering-Moraine Library
For information call 937-463-2665

Early Brewers of Dayton
November 14 at 10:00 a.m.
Rec West Enrichment Center
For information call 937-433-0130

Street Names of Dayton
December 4 at 7:00 p.m.
Brookville Library
For information call 937-463-2665

American Revolutionary War Soldiers at Woodland
December 19 at 10:00 a.m.
Rec West Enrichment Center
For information call 937-433-0130

Reservations are required for all events. Please call 937-228-3221. For more information about tours and programs at Woodland and in the community, visit our website at www.woodlandcemetery.org and click on the Tours and Events tab.

Woodland Events

Dayton’s Walk of Fame and Woodland Cemetery

The inception of Dayton’s Walk of Fame in 1996, as part of the City of Dayton’s Bicentennial Celebration has recognized over 150 outstanding individuals and groups for their enduring personal or professional contributions to the community, nation, and the world.

In 2003, the Walk of Fame was moved from the Dayton International Airport to the Wright-Dunbar Historic District which is now managed and supported by Wright Dunbar, Inc. Granite pavers, noting the inductees, are located on the sidewalks on both sides of West Third Street between Shannion and Broadway Streets and on Williams Street. The Walk of Fame and the annual celebratory event provide the region an opportunity to celebrate the unique contributions of past and present citizens, and it also provides funds to support the program and the upkeep of the Walk. Visitors from across the United States and school-children in the region visit the Walk to be inspired by and learn about the men and women honored in the Walk of Fame.

In September 2018, seven people were inducted to the Walk of Fame of which three have ties to Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum making 40 of its residents a member of the Walk of Fame. This years inductees who are connected to Woodland Cemetery are Dora and Lucius Rice and Robert Koepnick.

Police Sergeant Lucius J. Rice (1876-1939) and Policewoman Dora Burton Rice (1882-1940)

In 1896, when he was 20, Sgt. Lucius Rice moved from North Carolina to Dayton where he met his future wife Dora, a first cousin of the renowned poet, Paul Laurence Dunbar. After being honorably discharged from the Ohio National Guard, Rice was appointed to the Dayton Police Department. He became the second African-American patrolman, first black detective, first black sergeant when he was promoted in 1916, and one of the longest-serving black officers of the 20th century. During his career he served with distinction and sacrifice. Critically injured three times in his police career, twice in gun battles, he was tragically killed in the line of duty in 1939 after a 30-year career.

Dora Rice, a homemaker until her children were older, played a key role at Wesleyan Methodist Church as its treasurer for 20 years and church organist for 22 years. She became an outstanding figure in local African-American life through church, club, community and civic affairs. She chose to join her husband in law enforcement in 1929. She became Dayton’s first black policewoman where she devoted herself to protecting neglected and abused children and mentoring girls for better lives. Together, the Rice’s personify the sacrifices of all local fallen police officers and fallen officers’ families.

Discover more Walk of Fame inductees resting peacefully at Woodland Cemetery inside this special issue of the Woodland Wire.
**Katharine Kennedy Brown** (1891-1986) was a prominent figure in national and local politics for over fifty years. She was the vice-chairman of the Republican National Committee from 1944-1952 and a member of the executive committee of the National Federation of Republican Women’s Clubs. She helped found the Ohio Federation of Republican Women’s Organizations and was a delegate-at-large for eight Republican national conventions. She served as an advisor to Ohio Governors Robert Taft and James Rhodes as well as to President Richard Nixon. Ms. Brown organized the Junior League of Dayton and was a board member of the Dayton Art Institute and Wilberforce University. Local legend has it that the curve in Interstate 75 fondly termed “Malfunction Junction” came about when she successfully petitioned to have the highway routed around her large and elegant home. Ms. Brown was inducted into the Walk of Fame in 1996 and she is located in Section 101 Lot 1724 at Woodland Cemetery.

**Julia Shaw Patterson Carnell** (1863-1944) promised to construct a new art museum for the city of Dayton if the community would pay for its operations. The challenge was met and Mrs. Carnell donated nearly $2 million. The Dayton Art Institute’s new building was completed in 1930 reflecting the Italian Renaissance style. The structure of nearly 60,000 square feet was designed by architect Edward B. Green of Buffalo, NY. Once it was finished, the Dayton Art Institute on its prominent hilltop location became known as “Dayton’s living room.” People of all kinds visited to admire the extensive collection, take art classes in the Art Institute School, and enjoy the gardens. Mrs. Carnell’s architectural gift to the city as well as the many art works she donated to the museum continue to be enjoyed by present generations. Julia Shaw Patterson Carnell was inducted into the Walk of Fame in 1996. She is buried in Section 13 Lot 365 at Woodland Cemetery.

**Levitt Luzern Custer** (1888-1962) was an inventor and entrepreneur whose inventions ranged from the very practical to the amusing. He created the first electric “invalid chair” shortly after World War I so that amputees could move independently. He adapted electric motors to power dentist drills. The Custer Statiscope was a device that indicated to balloon pilots whether they were rising or descending, often difficult to determine in clouds and fog, and he created the first flight training device at the Vandalia flight training airport. His business, the Custer Specialty Company, regularly employed 35 to 50 people and its headquarters featured an indoor miniature golf course. Mr. Custer designed a number of amusement park rides including the Zoomer and the Bubble Bounce. The range of his accomplishments truly embodies the spirit of invention that made the Dayton region great. Mr. Custer was inducted into the Walk of Fame in 1998 and he is located in Section 113 Lot 338 at Woodland Cemetery.

**Dr. August F. Foerste** (1862-1936) was an internationally respected geologist and paleontologist who was a pioneer in describing the geology of the Miami Valley. He was a highly productive scientist who published over 5,500 pages on geology and produced over 650 photographic plates of fossil material. His 1915 work entitled, “Geology of Dayton and Vicinity” is considered a classic in the field. August Foerste and his understanding of the area’s geology, led to the direct involvement with the Miami Conservancy District, advising the group on such crucial issues as the location of dams. In addition to his career as an active scientist, he taught physics and science at Steele High School for 38 years, inspiring many to careers in the sciences. In 1926, he was presented with a lifetime membership to the Engineers Club of Dayton. Dr. Foerste was inducted into the Walk of Fame in 2004. He is located in Section 126 Lot 55 at Woodland Cemetery.

**Harvey Dunn Geyer** (1891-1952) is a recipient of the National Modern Pioneers Award. He was recognized for distinguished achievements which advanced the American standard of living. Geyer held patents for several hundreds of products that were used in the aviation, automotive and industrial manufacturing industries. As a contemporary of Orville and Wilbur Wright, and an aviation pioneer, in 1947 Geyer oversaw the reconstruction of the Wright Flyer III which was dedicated in June 1950 to be housed in Carillon Park. Founder of Inland Manufacturing, Harvey Geyer perfected a process for the automobile steering wheel, with an application of rubber on metal technique. Mr. Geyer was inducted into the Walk of Fame in 2003. He is located in Section 20 Lot 37F at Woodland Cemetery.
Jacob O. Joyce (1823-1905) was a Dayton inventor and businessman who held nearly as many patents as Thomas Edison. One of his most useful inventions was the hydraulic lifting jack. In 1873, he started the Joyce-Cridland Company to design, patent and manufacture all types of jacks. These devices were initially focused on the mining and railroad industry, where they made possible the easy movement of heavy equipment. Today, the company founded by Joyce, moves nearly every kind of heavy equipment imaginable. Joyce also made his mark upon the local landscape when he purchased the rooming house at 6 Josie Street now known as the Steamboat House. He “Victorianized” it by adding rooms, stairways, dormers, bays, and one of the best wrap around porches visible from Keowee Street. Joyce also modified this home with a higher roof which was raised using the hydraulic jack he invented. Jacob O. Joyce was inducted into the Walk of Fame in 2003. Mr. Joyce is located in Section 102 Lot 1616 at Woodland Cemetery.

James A. Parsons, Jr. (1900-1989) was an engineer, inventor and educator. He graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a degree in electrical engineering. As a chemist at the Duriron Company, he worked on the development of aluminum, bronze and high silicon iron castings. He later became Director of the Research Laboratory and was awarded numerous patents for processes used in making stainless steel. After more than 30 years at Duriron, Mr. Parsons left to become a professor for the Engineering School at Tennessee State University where he organized the first curriculum in metallurgy at any predominantly black institution in the country. He later taught at the Ohio State University and at Garfield Skills Center in Dayton. He always emphasized mastering the basics, including clear communication, and encouraged his students to strive for excellence. Mr. Parsons’s record of pioneering work in the fields of engineering and education and the training of black engineers had a positive impact on the city and the industry. James A. Parsons, Jr. was inducted into the Walk of Fame in 2008 and is entombed in Section 101 in the Woodland Mausoleum.

Louis F. Polk (1904-1991) was an internationally recognized leader in the field of measurement science or metrology. His early career was with City Machine & Tool Works in Dayton where he began as a messenger. Following college graduation, he moved up to designer and then manager. When City Machine merged with Sheffield Machine and Tool, he became president of the new company. Sheffield gauges and measuring systems were critical in creating standardized machine parts during World War II. Mass production of machine and replacement parts would have been impossible without exact measurements. Polk’s many inventions in this field helped move the nation from hand-tooled, unique machine parts into the world of interchangeable parts with quick repairs. His work in standards development led him to being named a delegate to the 1960 conference that replaced the meter bar with an isotopic wavelength of light. He served on many standards boards and committees and was named Chairman of the U. S. Metric Board by President Carter in 1978. Louis F. Polk was inducted into the Walk of Fame in 2008. He is located in Section 121 Lot 1 at Woodland Cemetery.

Reverend Edward A. Puff (1914-2006) was pastor of Memorial United Church of Christ for 40 years. Rev. Puff embraced a broad concept of the church’s mission and was instrumental in establishing such organizations as: the Trinity Retirement Home, the East Dayton Health Center, the Burkhardt Center, and the East Dayton Food Pantry. While other churches moved to the suburbs, his stayed in the city. As he once said, “If the Lord was coming, he would come to Fifth Street!” He had received numerous awards and honors, including the Montgomery County First Peace Bridge Award. Because of his association with the Wright family, Reverend Puff was asked to speak at the ceremony marking the end of the Centennial of Flight Celebration. At that time, he said the Wrights “set up a dream that hardened into a deed.” In his ministry, Reverend Puff had done the same thing. Rev. Edward Puff was inducted into the Walk of Fame in 2005. He is located in Section 101 Lot 1829 at Woodland Cemetery, just steps away from the Wright Brothers.

For more information on Dayton’s Walk of Fame and to submit a nomination for 2019 go to http://www.daytonwalkoffame.citymax.com
Mitchell “Booty” Wood (1919-1987) studied trombone at Dunbar High School. After graduation, he joined the Lionel Hampton Band and later played with Duke Ellington and Count Basie. By his count, he traveled more than 2 million miles on the road playing jazz in Sweden, Japan, South America, Mexico and France. In each band he held the position of first trombone winning high praise from the band leaders and their enraptured audiences. After his travels, Booty returned home to Dayton to teach jazz at Dunbar High School and Central State University. He would promote the benefits of constant practice, discipline, and the joy of music. Mitchell “Booty” Wood was inducted into the Walk of Fame in 2000. Mr. Wood is located in Section 300 Lot 40 at Woodland Cemetery.

Calvin J. Werner (1907-1996) was an engineer, inventor, corporate and community leader and lifelong Daytonian. A product of Dayton schools, he joined the Dayton Engineering Laboratories (Delco) as a co-op student. After graduation from the University of Cincinnati, he began work as a design engineer for General Motor’s Delco Products Division. He quickly moved up the corporate ladder becoming Chief Engineer, Manager of Manufacturing, General Manager at Moraine Products, Vice President and General Manager of GMC Truck and Coach Division, and Vice President and General Manager of the Cadillac Motor Car Division. He was an able manager with a gift for problem solving. His ability to improve the function of motors led to 64 patents in the field of electric motors and controls. He received a certificate of commendation for his engineering work on generators and landing crafts used by the U. S. Navy during World War II. Mr. Werner was also active in professional organizations as well as local charities. Calvin J. Werner was inducted into the Walk of Fame in 2008. He is located in Section 200 Lot 367 at Woodland Cemetery.

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Dayton’s Walk of Fame Inductee: Robert Koepnick (1907-1995) and his Soaring Spirits sculpture at Woodland Cemetery and Arboretum

Robert C. Koepnick, a native Daytonian, lived virtually all of his life in the Dayton region. He was a sculptor of national reputation and maintained a studio in Lebanon, Ohio until shortly before his death. He studied with Carl Miles, the noted Swedish sculptor. Koepnick was a prolific, versatile sculptor who worked in wood, bronze, stone, aluminum, and terra cotta and was known for his innovation in the use of aluminum. He was the Head of the Sculpture and Ceramic Department at the School of the Dayton Art Institute from 1936 to 1941 and also 1946 to 1974, touching the lives of hundreds of students. In 1974, he was honored with the title “emeritus” during spring commencement ceremonies at the College of the Dayton Art Institute. His works are displayed in many states and have been exhibited in distinguished museums including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, the National Academy of Design, and the Dayton Art Institute. At least 17 of his major works are displayed in Dayton. During World War II he worked for the Aeromedical Laboratory at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, helping to design gloves and oxygen masks that made it possible for pilots to fly at ever increasing altitudes.

In 1980, a 96-niche columbarium was constructed at the center of the Lawn Crypt area with the bronze statue Soaring Spirits placed above it. Woodland Cemetery is proud to have artwork from Robert C. Koepnick on display for all to enjoy.