

DAVID'S CEMETERY

"Generations of Care"

4600 Mad River Road
Kettering, OH 45429
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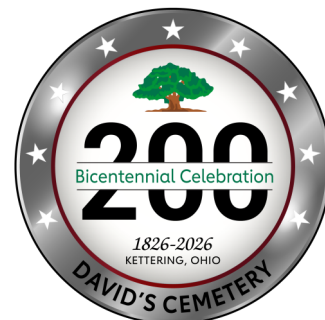


1826-2026



We are preparing for our 200th Anniversary!

In a place where peace and beauty provide rest and solitude we recognize the importance of our duty to preserve and protect the most sacred of places for our community's loved ones. It is with great honor that we look back at the past and look forward to the future of your cemetery. Established in 1826 with a small piece of donated farmland, your cemetery has grown to over 55 well maintained acres.



Since the founding of your cemetery, loved ones buried here bore witness to or experienced; wars, women's suffrage, economic downturns, the civil rights movement, a moon landing, bombings, a new millennium, terrorist attacks, mother nature's fury and life changing inventions like: the telephone, the phonograph, electric light, the birth of flight, the refrigerator, the television, the camera, the computer and much more.

200 years ago, the average life expectancy was around 40 years (now $\approx$ 78), agriculture was dominant but the industrial revolution was coming, public education was beginning to spread across the country, the first chartered railway was opened, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson died on the same day, July 4, 1826, there were only 24 states in the Union and less than 600,000 people lived in Ohio.

Through it all, your cemetery; steadied itself, adapted, expanded, prospered and always honored its community members with dignity.

The dedication of the board members and staff, past and present, is on display every day from the beautifully maintained grounds to the compassion for our community members during some of their most difficult times. We vow that the dedication that made your cemetery such a cornerstone of the community continues into the next 200 years with the same commitment and success.

Time Capsule Dedication-Thursday, January 8, 2026

Check our website for details as they become available.



200th Anniversary Commemorative Memorial

You may have already noticed the large boulder on the lawn outside our office. This 12,000 lb. boulder will become our Commemorative Memorial. In 2026 it will be dedicated with a bronze memorial plaque to honor our founders, creators and guardians as part of our bicentennial celebration.

www.davidscemetery.com

**Cremation Scattering Garden/Indoor-Outdoor Niches/Indoor Crypts/Vaults
Monuments/Pre-Planning Services/Chapel/Gathering Room/Many Spaces Available**

HAVE YOU NOTICED?



The new sign at our Mad River Road entrance has been completed and landscaped. It's a beautiful stone wall that was designed and built as a companion to the Far Hills Avenue entrance.



Old Glory Plaza

2015-2025



10 years ago we celebrated the dedication of Old Glory Plaza. Niches are still available!

Dayton MAGAZINE

David's Cemetery is excited to collaborate with Dayton Magazine on a special publication commemorating our 200th Anniversary.

This special edition will showcase our rich history, beautiful grounds, and so much more! Look for it in the Spring of 2026!!

Headstone Cleaning Class 2026!

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Our caring families want to learn to properly care for their loved one's headstone so we will be offering a headstone cleaning class in 2026.

Please contact our office for more information!



Mark your holiday calendar...

Christmas Eve Luminaries

Wednesday, December 24, 2025

Beginning @ Dusk

1945-2025

The inscription reads:

*IT IS FOR THE LIVING
TO CARRY THE TORCH OF JUSTICE
SO THEY WHO DIED
SHALL NOT HAVE DIED IN VAIN
IN MEMORY
OF THE MEN AND WOMEN OF ALL WARS
WHO HAVE SERVED THEIR COUNTRY
IN THE HOPE OF PEACE EVERLASTING*

80th Anniversary
of war memorial donation
in Section 2!



On January 9, 1945 this war memorial was donated by J. Findley Marshall. It was created by Harry Schwartz & Son of Lebanon, OH.

We offer an Appreciation Discount for qualifying active military personnel, veterans & active or former first responders.



David's Cemetery-where peace and beauty provide rest and solitude.

WANTED

200 STORIES

The 200 Stories Campaign is about sharing and celebrating the stories of the loved ones buried here since 1826. This campaign invites individuals, families, and organizations with a connection to, or interest in, our cemetery to get involved. Anyone with a story that they would like to share is asked to submit it electronically or by mail to:

David's Cemetery's 200 STORIES Campaign
4600 Mad River Rd
Kettering, OH 45429

along with the 200 STORIES Permission/Release Statement below
(also available for print on our 200th Anniversary Celebration website page:
<https://davidscemetery.com/200th-anniversary/>)

Stories submitted electronically should be emailed to tschimer@davidscemetery.com.
(along with a signed 200 STORIES Permission/Release Statement).

Contributions will be collected over the coming months and shared on our website as part of our 200th Anniversary Celebration.

200 STORIES Permission/Release Statement

I understand that the story I have provided is made on behalf of David's Cemetery and will be used in marketing and promoting David's Cemetery. I authorize David's Cemetery to use my story in marketing and promotional efforts, including, but not limited to, advertisements, social media posts, brochures and its website. I waive any claim to inspect, edit or approve of any materials where my story is used. I also waive any claim to copyright my story or materials where my story appears and waive any claim to financial compensation or gain from using the story.

I have read, understand, and agree to the above statement.

Story Subject: _____

Print Name: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Accolades for our Superintendent

This article originally appeared in the July 2025 issue of Cemetery & Cremation, published by Kates-Boylston Publications, and is being shared with permission.

[GROUNDKEEPING]

By Tom Nondorf

Superb Intendent A Half Century of “Digger” at David’s

David’s Cemetery in Kettering, Ohio, outside of Dayton, will be celebrating its 200th anniversary next year, and we’ll be sure to revisit their full story, but for now, a tip of the groundskeeping cap to Stephen “Digger” Hopkins who has been their superintendent for over one quarter of those 200 years. Last year he celebrated his 50th year in charge of the grounds. He started as a part-time worker with David’s in 1967 and is now just the eighth superintendent in the cemetery’s history.

David’s was originally part of David’s Church (both named for a local area minister), but separation of church and cemetery took place in 1890, and it has been growing ever since to its current size of over 55 acres, each one lovingly tended to by Hopkins.

“Steve loves being out on the grounds,” said Terry Schimer, David’s Cemetery’s longtime marketing coordinator. “A lot of superintendents are in the office a lot of the time, but he goes out and still tries to do as much as he can on the grounds.”

Because he has also worked at the local fire department, he’s the kind of character who knows everyone in the city and is known by all. “He’s a great, big, tall, gentle giant of a guy,” Schimer said. “And in this business, you have to like people and like helping them. You have to be compassionate.”

Making people feel comfortable on the grounds is second nature to Hopkins. And his kindness to locals



STEPHEN “DIGGER” HOPKINS

paid off in a big way. He recently told Schimer how he met his wife at the cemetery. “Oh yeah, up there in Section D at the four-way stop,” he said. “She was here with a friend of hers, and we met, and I asked her if she wanted to go out, and she did.”

That was in 1975, and reportedly he was seen mowing the cemetery on his wedding day, because he lives so close by. He still shows that level of dedication 50-plus years later. Schimer said, “You know whenever the weather is bad, he’s out there. He lives for the cemetery, honestly. I can’t imagine ever being able to find somebody with the commitment to this place like he has.”

With that personal connection, Hopkins has personally seen generations of people come through the gates of David’s, where over 15,000 reside permanently, but thousands of others have been permanently touched by his kindness and attention to detail. •



Hopkins – still working hard at David’s Cemetery. (Photos courtesy David’s Cemetery)

You can find the countdown clock to David’s Cemetery’s 200th Anniversary at davidscemetery.com/200th-anniversary/.

Superintendent's Message

This year's person of interest is Dr. Ned Schaurer Rasor, born January 2, 1927, in Van Buren Township, Montgomery County, Ohio to Floyd Olen Rasor, who was the Assistant Superintendent of the Van Buren Township schools (Kettering, Ohio) and Anna Belle Shaurer Rasor, a school teacher at Greenmont Village elementary. The family lived on Far Hills Ave., across from the Fairmont High School (now named the D.L. Barnes Building). After graduating from Fairmont High School in 1944, he attended Ohio State University, graduating in 1948 first in his class with a B.S. in Engineering Physics. Ned then earned his Master's Degree in Physics at the University of Illinois. He went on to attend Case Institute of Technology and in 1954 received his Doctorate Degree in Engineering Physics.



Source: Legacy.com

Dr. Rasor was married in 1947 to Genevieve Mercia Eads Rasor, who he met in elementary school. During their 74-year marriage, they raised two daughters, Julia Rasor and Dina Rasor Lawson.

Dr. Rasor worked as a Department Director for 13 years at Atomic International, Div. of North American Aviation and conducted research as a physicist on the radiation effects in nuclear reactor materials, fuel elements for high temperature nuclear reactors, and the physical properties of materials at very low (4K) to very high (4000K) temperatures. His Doctoral Dissertation subject was thermionic nuclear physics energy conversion. In his early career, he worked with the US Air Force on the integration and feasibility analysis of nuclear ram jet and space nuclear power systems. These thermionic nuclear physics form which Dr. Rasor first described form the technological basis that is powering the Mars Lunar Lander.

In 1970, Dr. Rasor used his engineering physics skills along with his cohort at the Cox Heart Institute, Dr. J. William Spickler, in Kettering, Ohio to develop and patent the first intracardiac nuclear heart pacemaker, the size of the eraser on a pencil. This new device was inserted into veins through a newly designed catheter, avoiding major surgery. In 1976, Dr. Rasor gave an example of this earliest cardiac pacemaker device to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.

Dr. Rasor went forward to conceive and develop innovative devices for medical and energy conversion applications, and founded six companies, three of them specializing in medical devices, and the other three specializing in energy conversion for space and nuclear applications. His inventions led to over 50 patents and over 100 professional publications.

In later years, Dr. Rasor collaborated with his daughter Julia, and they co-patented fifteen further inventions, writing five publications together. Julia S. Rasor is a medical device entrepreneur, inventor and sculptor with both broad and deep multifunctional expertise in medical devices and business. Dina Rasor Lawson forged her career as an investigative journalist and author. She founded the Project on Government Oversight to serve as a nonprofit, nonpartisan watchdog over military and related government spending.

In his eighties, Dr. Rasor turned his skills toward exploring the astrophysics of dark matter and gravity, for which he published seven peer-reviewed articles. Dr. Rasor was a member of the AIAA Associate Fellows, the scientists who have accomplished outstanding contributions in the sciences and technology of aeronautics and astronautics.

Dr. Rasor was still actively researching the astrophysics of dark matter until COVID 19 struck. He passed away at the age of 93 on December 31, 2020, and is buried in Section "B" at David's Cemetery. His beloved wife Genevieve passed away on January 19, 2024 at the age of 96 and is buried alongside her husband.

Stephen D. Hopkins

REFERENCES:

[https://www.daytondailynews.com/obituaries/rasor-ned/JG6CXXK2UVEKNGT6GP2TY55XUE/](https://www.daytondailynews.com/obituaries/rasor-ned/JG6CXXK2UVEKNGT6GP2TY55XUE/newspapers.com/article/dayton-daily-news-ned-rasor/133639065/?locale=en-GB)

[newspapers.com/article/dayton-daily-news-ned-rasor/133639065/?locale=en-GB](https://www.newspapers.com/article/dayton-daily-news-ned-rasor/133639065/?locale=en-GB)

[pacemaker/National Museum of Americanhistory.si.edu/collections/objects/nmah.724174Id#MG.322717](https://pacemaker/NationalMuseumofAmericanhistory.si.edu/collections/objects/nmah.724174Id#MG.322717)

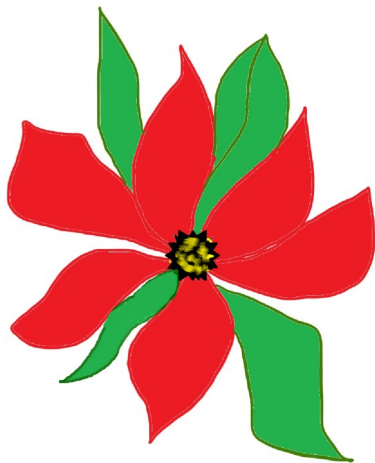
[AIAA Associate Fellows American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics www.berry-bellandhall.com/obituary/genevieve-rasor/](https://www.aiaa.org/associate-fellows/AmericanInstituteofAeronauticsandAstronauticswww.berry-bellandhall.com/obituary/genevieve-rasor/)

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/ned-rasor-0a071832>

Please remember that the cemetery grounds and all three mausoleums will be cleaned off starting at 7:30 a.m. Friday, November 28, 2025 (the day after Thanksgiving).

IF YOU HAVE ITEMS YOU WISH TO KEEP, PLEASE REMOVE THEM BEFORE THAT DAY.

You may place decorations back into the cemetery and mausoleums on Sunday, December 7, 2025.



David's Cemetery's 2025 Poinsettia Program

David's Cemetery extends an invitation to you to participate in our
28th Annual Holiday/Poinsettia Program.

David's Cemetery is offering a **6.5" potted red poinsettia** for
placement in the mausoleums with your loved ones name.

The beautiful poinsettia is a 6.5" potted plant wrapped in foil, containing 4 to 6 lovely red blooms.

The cost is **\$15.00** payable in cash, check, or credit card.

All checks should be made payable to David's Cemetery.

Orders will be taken **now thru November 1, 2025.** The poinsettia's will be placed in the mausoleums on the
first Saturday in December (12/6/2025).

Phone orders will be accepted at (937) 434-2255.

We appreciate your support in this yearly program and encourage you to please share this information with other families.

Sincerely,

David's Cemetery Association
4600 Mad River Road
Kettering, OH 45429

Make check payable to: David's Cemetery

-----cut here-----

Your Last Name _____ Your First Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Number of poinsettias _____

VISA/Master Card # _____

TOTAL \$ _____

OR Check Number _____ Email address _____

Exp. date _____ **Security Code (last 3 numbers on back of card)** _____

Signature for Credit Card _____

Name of person/s in mausoleum _____



David's Cemetery's

2025 Wreath Program



David's Cemetery extends an invitation to you to participate in our

28th Annual Holiday/Winter Wreath Program

Along with the help of **Boy Scout Troop 375**, we are offering a 24" holiday wreath for gravesite placement. This is a worthwhile opportunity for the scouts to do community work and fund future outings.

Once again we are offering a beautiful live **24" Fraser Fir wreath with "snow" frosted pine cones and a beautiful red velvet bow**. They will be attached to a stand and placed at the gravesite by the scouts.

The cost is **\$40.00** payable in cash, check, or credit card (see below for discount).

All checks should be made payable to David's Cemetery.

Orders will be taken now **thru November 1, 2025**. *Phone orders will be accepted.*

The wreaths will be placed at the gravesites on **Saturday, December 6, 2025**.

These wreaths will remain on the gravesites through February 2026. David's Cemetery and the scouts will take care of their removal.

We appreciate your support in this yearly program and encourage you to please share this information with other families.

Total \$40.00

Discount **\$3.00** (*if you have your order in by Oct. 11, 2025*)

Pay \$37.00

Payable to: David's Cemetery

David's Cemetery Association

4600 Mad River Road

Kettering, OH 45429

937-434-2255

-----cut here-----

Your Last Name _____ Your First Name _____

Address _____

Number of wreaths _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

TOTAL \$ _____

VISA/Master Card # _____ OR Check Number _____

Exp. date _____ Security Code (last 3 numbers on back of card) _____

Signature for Credit Card _____

Email address _____

Person/s Name on Grave/s _____

All orders received BEFORE October 11, 2025 will receive a \$3.00 discount.

Be certain to return your order immediately in order to receive a discount!