

# The Spirited Stroll through Oak Ridge Cemetery *Springfield's Memorial Day Celebration*

## Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jenni Dahl, (217) 741-7982

In times past cemeteries were places for community gatherings and public speeches, family picnics and strolls, and lessons passed down from generation to generation. Such traditions will be revived at The Spirited Stroll on Saturday May 28, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event will feature an old-fashioned Ice Cream Social and a Tree Tour of significant trees in the cemetery.

Springfield Mayor Jim Langfelder will welcome guests and reflect on the significance of the city's spectacular cemetery and the landmarks within it – the Lincoln Tomb, war memorials and other significant sites. The Springfield Municipal Band will provide a rousing concert of patriotic music. Included in the day's events is a Revolutionary War Patriots Commemorative Plaque Dedication.

The historic Oak Ridge Abby will be open to visitors. This grand structure lined with polished marble was built in 1910 to accommodate 1045 internments. Its stained glass windows were recently restored by a local expert who donated his time. In the grounds surrounding the Abby, a walking tour of historic and unique trees has been organized by Starhill Forest Arboretum. Interpreters stationed at each of the eighteen trees on the tour will discuss their significance. Additional information can be found at <https://oakridgecemeterytrees.wordpress.com>. Educational nature activities are offered for children to inspire new generations.

Musical ensembles The Wildwood Strings (dulcimers) and Wild Columbine will provide entertainment throughout the afternoon. Traditional cake and ice cream, and fruit and lemonade will be for sale. There is no charge for admission.

This celebration is organized and sponsored by Oak Ridge Cemetery, Oak Ridge Cemetery Foundation, Lincoln Monument Association, Illinois State Historical Society, the Springfield and Central Illinois African American History Museum (SCIAAHM), and Starhill Forest Arboretum.