Albany Rural Cemetery Appoints New General Manager

Albany Rural Cemetery is pleased to announce the appointment of John Michael Higgs as General Manager, effective November 9, 2026.

Michael brings more than 24 years of experience in cemetery administration, historic preservation, nonprofit management, strategic planning, and public engagement. He joins Albany Rural Cemetery after more than two decades with Cave Hill Cemetery Company and the Cave Hill Heritage Foundation in Louisville, Kentucky, where he has worked since 2001. In his current leadership roles as Foundation Manager, Public Relations Executive, and Corporate Secretary, his responsibilities span strategic planning, preservation, governance, fundraising and philanthropic development, communications, and long-range institutional planning.

His extensive experience helping to steward one of the nation's significant historic garden cemeteries provides a particularly strong foundation for his new role. His combination of cemetery management experience, preservation expertise, nonprofit leadership, financial and capital planning, and commitment to public service makes him an exceptional fit for Albany Rural Cemetery, which is both an active cemetery and a nationally significant historic landscape.

Michael holds a Master of Science in Management from Indiana Wesleyan University and a Bachelor of Arts in English, with a minor in Secondary Education, from Bellarmine University. He is a graduate of the Professional Leadership Colleges of the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association and has completed professional training in major gift fundraising and organizational sustainability through the Indiana University Lilly School of Philanthropy. He is also a Certified Funeral Celebrant.

A recognized leader within the cemetery profession, Michael currently serves as President of the Kentucky Cemetery Association as well as President of the Southern Cemetery Cremation Funeral Association. His professional and community service also includes serving as Secretary of the Kentucky Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and as a Board member of the Children's Memorial Marker Committee. He has written on cemetery leadership, preservation, and organizational strategy and has presented before national and regional professional organizations.

Michael's appointment marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for Albany Rural Cemetery. We are confident that his experience, perspective, and leadership will serve the Cemetery well as we continue to advance our work, preserve and care for this extraordinary landscape, serve the families who place their trust in us, expand our

connections with the community, and plan thoughtfully for the future. Together, we look forward to building upon that remarkable history while ensuring that this treasured place continues to serve families and the community for generations to come.

In the coming weeks, we will be hosting an Open House at Albany Rural Cemetery, and we hope you will join us to meet and welcome Michael. Guests will also have an opportunity to tour our new crematorium and meet members of our staff, Albany Cemetery Association Trustees, and Board members of the Friends of the Albany Rural Cemetery.

There is much to look forward to at Albany Rural Cemetery, and we are excited about what lies ahead. Please join us in extending a very warm welcome to Michael Higgs as he begins his new role and this next chapter with Albany Rural Cemetery.

Sincerely,

Frank Slingerland, President

Albany Cemetery Association