

PRESSRELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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New Mausoleum at Swan Lake Memorial Gardens

Michigan City, IN (September 23, 2003) – Mark Tomsheck, Superintendent of the Michigan City Department of Cemeteries, announced the new mausoleum at Swan Lake Memorial Gardens will be dedicated at 2 p.m. on Sunday, September 28, 2003.

"We are very pleased to announce this new addition to the Swan Lake facility," Tomsheck said. "This building holds 288 crypts and is part of a complex which currently includes two mausoleums and will eventually have five mausoleums."

Six thousand years ago, the Egyptians were building increasingly elaborate funeral monuments, ranging from simple burial mounds to pyramids. Reserved for royalty, noblemen and wealthy citizens, the complexity of some of these monuments continue to fascinate us today. In fourth century B.C. in Persia, Queen Artemisia II had 100,000 slaves erect a magnificent tomb 140 feet high and 111 feet in circumference to honor her dead husband, King Maussollos. This splendid monument, now called a mausoleum, was named one of the Seven Wonders of the World by the Ancients.

The taste for such imposing monuments slowly disappeared, to be replaced by more modest tombs. In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, a new trend took hold in the United States: the development of cemeteries in the form of vast green parks accentuated with imposing funeral monuments created by renowned sculptors. Today, the renewed interest in mausoleums is an elegant response to a variety of contemporary needs because they provide calm, serene surroundings for families to meditate, sheltered from unpleasant weather conditions.

The new mausoleum at Swan Lake Memorial Gardens was designed by D & O Architects from Valparaiso, Indiana and built by George Allen Construction in Frankfort, Illinois.

The carpeted building has a vaulted frosted glass ceiling which provides exceptional lighting for ceremonies which are held inside. "The mausoleum is the ultimate protection from the elements," Tomsheck said, "and provides comfort and convenience for year-round visitation. The beautiful and peaceful surroundings add to the value of the complex."

Tomsheck said, "Mayor Chuck Oberlie and former Mayor Sheila Brillson were very instrumental in getting this excellent building for our community. A bronze plaque will be installed at a later date, and their names as well as the names of our board members who were in office during the completion of this project will be inscribed on the plaque."

The mausoleum is open from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and is closed on weekends. However, anyone who purchases a crypt receives a key which provides complete access to the building.

For more information, call Swan Lake Memorial Gardens at 219/873-1522 or Greenwood Cemetery at 219/873-1521.

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