



www.thepaacc.org  
assistance@thepaacc.org

Preserving the history of and making improvements to the grounds of the Pyland African American Cemetery.

**MAILING ADDRESS**  
P. O. Box 40645  
Fort Worth, Texas 76140

January 31, 2024

Re: PAACC Annual Membership Letter

Dear PAACC Members,

Happy 2024! This past year went by quickly. We worked hard, and the results speak volumes about our dedication, our community, and the organization we're all building together.

I want to highlight a few things from last year that made the cemetery better and give you an idea of what's ahead in 2024:

In 2023, We:

- We held a Historical Marker Ceremony on May 27, 2023, with over 75 members, family and friends in attendance representing the surrounding cities as well as Houston, Dallas, Ft. Worth and Austin; including our program guest speakers: the Honorable Judge Leward J. LaFleur, Marion County Historical Commission Representative Ellen Danielson and Ghais Lateef, our Cemetery Historian. Also in attendance were special guests Jefferson Mayor Rob Baker, County Commissioner JR Ashley - Precinct 1; County Commissioner Jacob Pattison - Precinct 2 (Pyland Cemetery in Precinct 2) and Ralph Meisenheimer, County Commissioner - Precinct 3.
- We removed broken tree limbs from the cemetery grounds caused by a storm on June 16, 2023. The storm caused a tree to fall on the chain link fence between the two Cemeteries (fence owned by Pyland Cemetery #1). We have tried to reach a representative of the Pyland Cemetery #1 to have the fence repaired but have been unsuccessful.

The PAACC appointed Forrest Gray as gravesite slab and headstone installer for the Cemetery. His restorative and installation services are available to anyone who needs a slab or headstone installed. Forrest Gray can be reached at 903-601-1880.

Of course, these are only a few highlights of the past year, but a long-awaited event we had been planning for almost 10 years!

Visit our website [www.thepaacc.org](http://www.thepaacc.org) for ways you can get involved, donate or to find additional information.



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### Looking Ahead

In my years leading the PAACC, I have never been more excited for what's ahead. By investing significantly in our organization and our community, we as a group are better prepared to serve the cemetery.

We are still negotiating the donation of land to install a Columbarium niche wall, final resting place for ashes after cremation. We are also continuing to work on installing a new fence at the south property line.

I can promise you that every member is committed to our organization and to our community. With the members' dedication and our continued donations, we are better set up than ever to have an impact on improvements needed at the cemetery.

We are so appreciative of your support—thank you!

We're looking forward to seeing you at our upcoming **Annual Board Meeting** on May 25, 2024, at **Pyland African American Cemetery, at 11am.**

Thank you,

Robert Smith  
President