

## CEMETERY DECORATION POLICY

Federal law requires St. Martin Parish to make working conditions as safe as possible for employees and contractors, which includes our cemetery. We also strive to make your visit as safe as possible. The following restrictions, recommendations, and posted warning signs are intended to achieve this goal. Your compliance with this policy while on cemetery grounds for whatever reason is expected and required.



## RESTRICTIONS:

- Decorations of any kind made of ceramic, glass, metal, plastic, Styrofoam, wire (or any hazardous material) that are placed directly on the ground, around or atop a Flat headstone that is flush with the ground or an Upright monument are subject to immediate removal.
- Personal Decorations such as beverages, coins, figurines, floral containers, food, grave blankets (or mounds), LED lights (or solar), loose stones, marbles, mulch, outdoor ornaments, painted rocks, wood chips, or items deemed hazardous by cemetery personnel are subject to immediate removal.
- Decorations of any kind placed in or hung from trees or shrubs are subject to immediate removal.
- Columbaria restrictions are as above for graves. Items may not be affixed to a structure or name plate.
- Pets of any kind and at any time must be leashed and owners must remove any excrement left behind.

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

- **Floral Arrangements:** Flowers either live or silk -or- Wreaths made of live or silk flowers must be placed in either a standard-issue, in-ground vase or hung from an above-ground shepherd's hook.  
*...A Flower Vase (metal or plastic) may be purchased and recessed into the ground below the grass line in front of the Flush headstone or Upright monument by their monument company.*  
*...An iron or metal Shepherd's Hook (one per headstone, 3-4' in height) may be purchased and placed adjacent to the Flat headstone or Upright monument to hang a single floral basket or wreath.*

## SEASONS and HOLIDAYS:

- **Lawn Mowing Season:** Mar. 31<sup>st</sup> to Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> - Decoration not affixed to a shepherd's hook or to an upright monument are removed on Wednesdays for grass cutting and trimming around flush and upright headstones, and columbaria structures. Flowers can be replaced on Saturday mornings by the family.  
*...To prepare for mowing, some decorations removed but not discarded are placed in a wooden bin next to the Cemetery Garage (C). They are held for 2 weeks and then discarded if not retrieved.*
- **Winter Season:** Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> to Mar. 15<sup>th</sup> - Decorations may remain on graves or near niches throughout.
- **Holidays\*:** Decorations may remain for 2 weeks at Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Thanksgiving. Veteran graves and niches bear a U.S. flag from Memorial Day to July 5<sup>th</sup>.