

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Curlew Hills Memory Gardens Opens its
New Greek Section of the Cemetery**

PALM HARBOR, Fla. (September, 2009) –

The ancient Greek culture has a well-documented history in the elaborate honoring of their deceased. Curlew Hills Memory Gardens of Palm Harbor, Florida, has now opened a newly designated section of the cemetery to honor this respected culture. This special section called Hellenic Cemetery ‘*Morpheus*’ is exclusive to Curlew Hills Memory Gardens, which is the only cemetery in the Tampa metro area to offer such a place.

Nearly 100 guests attended the dedication ceremony of Curlew Hills Memory Gardens’ new Hellenic Cemetery ‘*Morpheus*.’ Special guest speakers at the event were Congressman Gus Bilirakis,; Rev. Father James Rousakis of *The Metropolis of Atlanta Vicar of Tampa Bay*; the Honorable Andreas Psycharis of the *General Consul of Greece in Tampa* and Michael Servos, *President of the Foundation of Hellenism of America*.

The Hellenic Cemetery ‘*Morpheus*’ is dedicated to reflect the traditional cultural and religious beliefs of the Greek American heritage. Even the name itself reflects the traditional Greek heritage. The word, Hellenism, is derived from the word, *Hellene*, which means Greek. The word “*Morpheus*” means dreams.

“ We are very proud to pay honor to the Greek community with our new section of the cemetery called *Hellenic Cemetery ‘Morpheus’*,” comments company President & CEO Keenan Knopke. “With such a large population of Greek Americans here in our area, we wanted to create a special place which reflects their traditional religious culture and beliefs. It’s going to be beautiful.”

Phase One of the new section will hold approximately 1000 traditional gravesites and private family estates and will follow the burial preferences of the Greek culture. This includes designing the area so that all the graves face an easterly direction, which is a preferred Greek custom.

The section at Curlew Hills Memory Gardens will feature a traditional archway entrance with a special commemorative plaque and impressive Greek columns. It will feature a beautifully designed private religious chapel made of marble where families can hold personal ceremonies or gatherings. There will also be a limited number of sites available for personal family chapels.

To develop the new section, Curlew Hills has worked closely with the Foundation of Hellenism of America, a non-profit organization located in Clearwater whose objective is to promote the Hellenic culture worldwide. President of the organization, Michael Servas, is excited about the creation of the new burial section honoring the Greek traditions. The word, Hellenism, is derived from the word, *Hellene*, which means Greek.

“I am very excited about this new relationship with Curlew Hills,” comments Foundation of Hellenism of America President, Michael Servas. “This is truly a piece of history for the Greek community. For the first time Greeks can be all together and the location in the heart of Pinellas County is simply perfect.”

Established in 1979, Curlew Hills Memory Gardens is an independent, family-owned funeral home & cemetery. With a 6,500+ square foot funeral home and a pristine 30-acre cemetery, the company provides comprehensive funeral, cremation and burial services to families of Pinellas, Pasco and Western Hillsborough counties.

For more information on the Hellenic Cemetery ‘*Morpheus*’ please call 727.789.2000.

The Tampa Bay area has a high population of Greek Americans. More specifically, Tarpon Springs is noted for having the highest percentage of Greek Americans of any city in the United States, according to wikipedia.com.

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For additional information on this release, please contact:

Mary Devine at CMSA Advertising & Public Relations / 727.447.3396 /
mary@cmsa.com