

**MICHAEL R. TURNER**

TENTH DISTRICT, OHIO



2082 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-6465

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
RANKING MEMBER  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE  
ON INTELLIGENCE

ASSISTANT MINORITY WHIP

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
120 WEST 3RD STREET  
SUITE 305  
DAYTON, OH 45402  
(937) 225-2843

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 26, 2021

Rosa L. DeLauro  
Chairwoman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-307 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Granger,

I am requesting \$1 million in funding for the Woodland Cemetery Restoration and Preservation project.

The entity to receive funding for this project is the Woodland Arboretum Foundation located at 118 Woodland Avenue, Dayton, Ohio 45409.

Founded in 1841, Woodland was one of the nation's first rural garden cemeteries that was not connected to a church or place of worship. It is a unique cultural, botanical and educational resource in the heart of Dayton. With over 111,000 souls entrusted to its care, it is the final resting place of many of Dayton's most distinguished residents including the Wright Brothers, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Charles F. Kettering, Gov. James M. Cox, John H. Patterson, Col. Edward A. Deeds, Erma Bombeck and so many more.

Woodland Cemetery & Arboretum has a multi-phased plan of restoring the historic structures on its grounds. This phased approach for restoration allows for much needed work to proceed forward as funding is received. The first phase of this project involves the restoration of the Tiffany Chapel, Gate and Administration Office. The project scope is to restore, stabilize, and prevent further deterioration of the structures including the stonework, clay-tile roofs, bronze custom gutters and the Tiffany glass windows within the Chapel while maintaining the structural and historical integrity of each window.

Restoration of Woodland's Chapel and Administration Building will return these 140 year old structures, closed to the public for over 30 years, to welcome visitors of all ages to learn more about the residents, history, art and culture of past, present and future Dayton, Ohio and our country.

Each year, an estimated 48,000+ visitors attend services, and frequent the park for recreational, botanical and historical uses including viewing the Gem City from our Lookout Point or simply finding a peaceful place to contemplate life and death in a serene setting. Today, the cemetery

with its outreach programs, has been well received by over 5,000 attendees, including 200+ educational programs in the form of tours and presentations on and off the grounds.

The restoration of Woodland's historic structures will increase visitation to Woodland and the surrounding community. The availability of the Chapel will allow greater public access to the grounds for cultural, educational, and recreational purposes in addition to traditional cemetery services.

Local restaurants and caterers can expect increased demand from our visitors in addition to access to accommodate events and functions that can now be held in these structures and on the grounds of Woodland. The preservation of the structures will be a priority and local suppliers and artisans will be utilized to maintain the ongoing facility needs.

This project will also provide visual and cultural benefit to our neighbors, the University of Dayton, Fairgrounds development "onMain," and other revitalization projects surrounding Woodland's 200+ acres of greenspace in Dayton.

Without restoration, these significant and beautiful structures will be lost in addition to the opportunities referenced above.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress