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Cemetery's history recognized

By Patrick Crowley
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SOUTHGATE -- An historical marker commemorating the members of Congress buried in Evergreen Cemetery has been approved and will eventually be placed at the cemetery's entrance.

The Historical Highway Marker Program has approved the marker, which was suggested by Cemetery Director Bob Briedenbach. It will likely be placed on the right side of the entrance and be visible from U.S. 27

A group of Campbell County Democratic Party leaders - Paul Whalen and Linda Klembara and Linda Nesbitt of Cold Spring - are now trying to raise the money to pay for the marker.

"We hope to raise the funds so it will be installed and dedicated by mid-November," Whalen wrote in an e-mail. "Evergreen Cemetery, like Highland Cemetery in Fort Mitchell and Linden Grove in Covington, contain the graves of many Northern Kentuckians who had great stories," wrote Whalen, a history buff.

"However, not as much is noted about the folks in Evergreen," he said. "So, with this marker, people will begin to realize that there are some people with stories that impacted our history local and national buried in Evergreen."

The members of Congress in the cemetery are:

Brent Spence, namesake of the Brent Spence Bridge.

John Wooleston Tibbatts, who championed Texas statehood.

Thomas Lauren Jones, a Newport lawyer who once challenged an opponent to a duel.

Albert S. Berry and John S. Berry. Berry Avenue in Bellevue was named for Albert Berry, who advised Williams Jennings Bryan in his 1896 presidential campaign. Bryan lost but carried Kentucky.

And the member of the Confederate Congress from Northern Kentucky, George Baird Hodge. Hodge was also a colonel in the Confederate Army and after the war represented Campbell County in the Kentucky General Assembly.

The group must raise \$2,400 to pay for the marker. Newport lawyer John Hayden, a Newport city commissioner, is overseeing a trust account for donations.

Contribution checks should be made out to Hayden and sent to Whalen, P.O. Box 22, Fort Thomas, KY 41075.