



CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JOSEPH GOVERNALI JOINS CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Cortland, NY, August 17, 2026 -- The Cortland Rural Cemetery announced today the election of Joseph Governali to its Board of Trustees.

Governail has been a member of the Cortland community since 1974, when he located to the city to join SUNY Cortland's Health Department, where he served as a long-term chair and from which he retired in 2010. Originally from the Bronx and New Rochelle, Governali attended Manhattan College, taught in elementary schools on Long Island, completed his graduate work at the University of Illinois, and worked with the American Medical Association in Chicago before coming to Cortland.

In addition to his leadership at the college, Governali served as board president of both the American Lung Association of Central New York and Cortland's Family and Children's Counseling Services, and he and his wife Nancy (deceased, 2025) were active and engaged supporters of other local organizations including the Lime Hollow Nature Center and Cortland Free Library.

"We are very excited and proud to have Joe join our team," said CRC Board President, Kathy Cincotta. "In addition to significant board and non-profit management experience that will strengthen our

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cemetery's oversight, he has a deep personal involvement with family genealogy -- an interest resulting from a variety of cemetery visits, including the largest cemetery in the country, Calvary Cemetery in Queens NY and small, rural cemeteries around Houston, Texas."

Cincotta added with a smile: "Joe says that some people in his family think his cemetery interests and travel are a bit morbid, but we obviously *can't* relate to such viewpoints and are looking forward to his work with our board!"

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ABOUT THE CORTLAND RURAL CEMETERY

Located just moments from the heart of the Cortland, NY, the Cortland Rural Cemetery is a 44-acre, non-profit, non-denominational cemetery established in 1853. The cemetery features winding drives, lawns, shrubs, and trees amid islands of individual graves, family mausoleums, and monument groupings, and honoring the original, 19th century concept of a "rural" or "garden" cemetery. Visits are encouraged. Plots remain available for sale for new interments. And beautiful, peaceful, and inspirational settings are available throughout the park-like grounds for multiple graves, cremation burials, family plots, and private estate mausoleums. Additionally, one hillside has been dedicated to burials for Veterans and their spouses. In agreement with Cortland's Temple Birth Sholom, two sections are reserved for Jewish burials. And the intimate, newly restored Gibson Chapel is available for memorial services or group visitations, with seating arrangements for up to sixty people.

