



MCLA is a new group, formed in July of 2024. We've met weekly to discuss Maryland cemetery laws and how we can bring our real world experience to proposing improvements to those laws. We drafted language for seven bills that are in the legislative process in the House and Senate.

We are not professional lobbyists, nor are we paid for our work in Maryland's cemeteries. We have no paid staff. We don't even have a bank account. What we do have is passion and a belief that cemeteries show respect for the deceased, and that cemeteries are our history and our gift to future generations.

We are twelve Maryland citizens devoted to care, preservation, documentation and protection of all of Maryland's cemeteries. Our MCLA team represents hundreds of years of advocacy and hands-on cemetery care. We are multicultural, spanning ethnicities and religions. Our members have widespread and diverse experience and backgrounds, are bi-partisan, and come from different counties across the State.

MCLA puts a special emphasis on identification, preservation, care and when needed, restoration, of African American cemeteries. Our members are actively working with individual African American cemeteries or sections of cemeteries. We bring incarcerated citizens to learn about cemetery care, and participate in cemetery cleanups. We help identify African American cemeteries for grants.

MCLA members understand the importance of genealogy and actively work to document cemetery records and markers across the State. Our members work with statewide organizations to provide advice to Maryland's cemetery regulator and to educate Maryland citizens about the importance of cemeteries.

Maryland citizens can make a difference when they are actively involved in the legislative process. We are so grateful to our bill sponsors, three Republicans and four Democrats. And we are appreciative of the hearing process that allows us to explain the importance, need and impact of the bills that we initiated. Thank you for supporting legislation this session that will benefit all cemeteries in Maryland.