

Cave Hill Heritage Foundation Announces Two New Board Members



Carl Thomas



Richard "Dick" Clay

By J. Michael Higgs

The Cave Hill Heritage Foundation is excited to announce the addition of two new Board Members, Carl Thomas and Richard "Dick" Clay.

Both Thomas and Clay are firmly rooted in the mission and vision of the Cave Hill Heritage Foundation. Each have numerous family members and associates that are resting on the grounds of Cave Hill Cemetery, providing them a rather unique mindset with the level of responsibility that they have undertaken.

Carl Thomas spent his professional career in the banking and non-profit leadership sectors. For 33 years, he served the community as a banker and bank director. Thomas is the Retired President and Treasurer of the Gheens Foundation, and is currently serving as the Executive Director of the V.V. Cooke Foundation. His span of experience in Board-level leadership is unparalleled, with service provided to numerous non-profit organizations throughout his lifetime, including The Filson Historical Society, Home of the Innocents, Gilda's Club of Kentuckiana, and many others.

Richard Clay is a retired attorney, having spent over 40 years with Dinsmore & Shohl, LLP, where he specialized in corporate and fiduciary litigation. Upon his retirement from the legal field, he was appointed as the President & CEO of The Filson Historical Society. Clay has also demonstrated tremendous leadership in the non-profit sector, serving as President of the Kentucky Bar Association, Board Chairman of the Speed Art Museum, and serving on the boards of The Norton Foundation, Cabbage Patch Settlement House, and many other organizations.

With a combined 80+ years of experience in leadership and financial acumen, both are welcome additions to our existing Board. Both Thomas and Clay were asked to reflect upon their new appointment, and offered the following perspective:

“Cave Hill is a unique community treasure. It affords citizens the opportunity to connect with the past and honor friends and family who are departed. We have a duty to be respectful of those who came before us and to preserve their legacies.”

- Carl Thomas, Sr.

“I’ve loved Cave Hill ever since I moved to Louisville 45 years ago. It is a repository of our City’s history...It is a beautiful place for contemplation. In many ways it is an outdoor cathedral. I do some of my best, most creative thinking when I walk the grounds.”

- Richard “Dick” Clay

Since 2005, the Cave Hill Heritage Foundation has undergone tremendous growth and refinement with its mission and vision. Devoted to preserving the past for the future, the Cave Hill Heritage Foundation is an educational organization that achieves its mission through the restoration of monuments and historic structures, preservation of the arboretum setting, and delivery of educational programming to highlight the history of Cave Hill Cemetery and its residents. Thomas and Clay are eager to champion our focus areas and are looking forward to even more growth as time evolves.

The complete Board of Directors of the Cave Hill Heritage Foundation is:

Paul J. Bickel, III, President of the Board
J. McFerran Barr, II, Vice President of the Board
Richard H.C. “Dick” Clay
Mrs. Susan Dabney Lavin
Mrs. Babs Rodes Robinson
Carl Thomas