

Thank You

to all who helped inspire and develop
the *Eastland* Memorial at BNC

Bohemian National Cemetery Association

Dave Pimm, President

Friends of Bohemian National Cemetery

Marge Stueckemann, President

Eastland Disaster Historical Society

Eastland Fellowship Authority

Bevel Granite Company

DAM Excavating and Concrete

Lubomír Dostál, artist, Czech Republic

Elements Architectural Group

Fleming Museum Consulting

Irena Čajková

April Hasson

Klára Moldová

Joel Tassin

BNC employees and volunteers

Work on the *Eastland* Memorial at BNC is ongoing.

To make a contribution or purchase a donor brick:

www.friendsofbnc.org/eastland or michalekchas@aol.com

The *Eastland* Centennial Commemorative Project Committee

Chuck Michalek
chairman

Chuck Betzold

Phil Roux
Carol Smetana

Linda Tassin
Dave Truitt
Ted Wachholtz

Dedication Ceremony
for the

Eastland Memorial

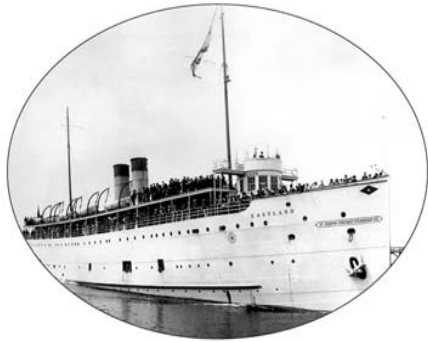


at
Bohemian National
Cemetery

1:00 pm, Sunday
July 12, 2015
Chicago, Illinois

The *Eastland* Disaster

July 24, 1915



The *Eastland* was one of several large ships chartered by Western Electric Company's Hawthorne Club to transport employees and their families and friends to the employee picnic at

Washington Park in Michigan City, Indiana. From a wharf on the Chicago River in downtown Chicago, over 2500 passengers boarded the steamer *Eastland* for the two-hour trip across the southern tip of Lake Michigan.

As the crew readied the ship for departure, the *Eastland*, still partially moored to the wharf, listed several times and rolled over on its side. Eight hundred forty-four passengers and crew drowned, many trapped inside the enclosed decks of the ship.

This memorial is dedicated to the victims and survivors of the *Eastland* disaster, as well as to the many heroes and organizations that assisted in saving lives and bringing relief to those who suffered from this tragedy.

Czechoslovak Garden Club
of America
Czechoslovak Heritage Museum
Czechoslovak Sunday
Radio Hour
Dobrovsky Masons Club
Richard Dolejs
Ellen Duvall
Ken Dvorsky
James and Lillian Enzor
Flesch Family
Friends of Bohemian
National Cemetery
Jerry and Helen Gaydusek
Shaun and Dorothy Gray Family
Grosser Family
Christine Harmon
Havlik Family
Bill and Linda Hudecek
IOOF Lodge Palacky #630
Jacobson Family
Wesley Johnston
Joseph Kubal
Mary Lachiewicz
Manifest Films
T. G. Masaryk
Czech School Board
T.G. Masaryk
Czech School Students
Judie Mason
Sue Matulionis
Chuck Michalek
Frank and Carolee Michalek
James and Charlene Michalek
Jim and Brandy Michalek
Kenneth and Darlene Michalek
Rudy and Chris Michalek
Troy and Sophia Michalek
Moravian Cultural Society

Morong Family
National Czech & Slovak
Museum & Library
National Slovak Society
Betty O'Leary
Dave Pimm
Prachar Family
Prague Committee of
Chicago Sister Cities
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Sokol Krivan
Carol Jean Smetana
Sokol Chicagoland
Sokol Spirit
Sokol Tabor
Charles Sterba
Storcel Family
Marge Stueckemann
Svobodna Obec
Joel and Linda Tassin
Judy Baar Topinka
Jeff Tucek
United Moravian Societies
Verneti Families
Wendella Boats
Western Fraternal Life
Association
Western Fraternal Life
Lodge Pilgrim #330
White Family - AQS Asset
Management LLC
David and Maribeth
Wronkiewicz
Jean Zack

The *Eastland* Centennial
Commemorative Project Committee
gratefully acknowledges contributions to the
Eastland Memorial at BNC

—100 years in the making —

with special appreciation to Judy Baar Topinka (1944-2014)
first donor to support the *Eastland* Memorial at BNC and
a great friend to Bohemian National Cemetery
and the Czech and Slovak communities of Illinois.

Albany Bank and Trust
Company
Tony and Amy Allen Family
American Czechoslovak
Engineers Society
American Friends of
the Czech Republic
Beverly Bernacchi
Chuck Betzold
Bohemian Lawyers
Association of Chicago
Bohemian National Cemetery
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District Council 12
CSA Lodge
Anton J. Cermak #099
CSA Lodge Betsy Ross #151

CSA Lodge Century of
Progress/Bila Hora #231
CSA Lodge DuPage Pioneers/
Edison #409
CSA Lodge Golden Gate #252
CSA Lodge Harrison/
Jan Hus/Garfield #378
CSA Lodge Mile-Hi Czechs #432
CSA Lodge Queensdale #422
CSA Lodge R. T. Crane Jr. #007
CSA Lodge Rovnost #053
CSA Lodge Sionilli #170
CSA Lodge Sokol Plzen #434
CSA Lodge Spirit of
St. Louis #157
CSA Lodge Virginia #230
CSA Lodge Woodrow
Wilson #377
CSA Lodge Yankee/
Jungmann #077
Curin Family
Czech & Slovak American
Genealogy Society of Illinois
Czech Republic Senate
Commission on Czechs
Living Abroad

Eastland Burials at Bohemian National Cemetery

Bohemian National Cemetery is the final resting place for more *Eastland* victims than any other cemetery. Nearly 150 burials took place here during the sad rainy days that followed the disaster, requiring gravediggers to work 12-hour days.

You are standing in Section 16, where you will see the largest number of gravestones of *Eastland* victims. It had been opened just months earlier, and gravesites in this section sold quickly to families grieving lost loved ones.

As you walk through Section 16 and read the inscriptions, you can identify those of *Eastland* victims by the death date, July 24, 1915. On Czech-language stones, you might see the date written as “24. července 1915” with the month at times abbreviated as “červ’ce” or “čer’ce”. Also, some grave markers are inscribed “obět’ Eastlandu” (victim of the *Eastland*) or “na lodi Eastlandu” (on the ship *Eastland*).

The porcelain photographs mounted on some of the gravestones are poignant reminders of the human loss. Many of the *Eastland* passengers were families and groups of friends looking forward to a summer outing with co-workers and neighbors. Sadly, most of those who died in the disaster were young adults and children.

"In Memoriam"

excerpts from 1915 poem by
Ida O. Anderson
survivor of the *Eastland* disaster

Shall we meet when we land, I wonder?
I hope so, my friend, bye and bye;
You were swallowed up in the struggle,
I was grasped when ready to die.

Noble heroes, you men who, undaunted,
Risky life some one of us to save,
White lips will pray for you and bless you
Until they are hushed in the grave.

Dear bereaved, take heart in your sorrow;
Though the load is heavy to-day,
You will meet again some to-morrow –
They have gone just over the way.

May our lives be nobler and better
For this dark, bitter hour of pain;
Take heart, my dear friend, in the dawning
We shall meet our loved ones again!



Goin' home, goin' home,
I'm a goin' home;
Quiet-like, some still day,
I'm jes' goin' home.

It's not far, jes' close by,
Through an open door;
Work all done, care laid by,
Goin' to fear no more.

Mother's there 'spectin' me,
Father's waitin' too;
Lots o' folks gather'd there,
All the friends I knew,
All the friends I knew.
Home, I'm goin' home!

"Goin' Home"

Largo Theme from
Antonin Dvořák's
Symphony No. 9
in E Minor, Opus 95,
"From the New World"
lyrics by his student
William Arms Fisher

Program

Opening Remarks	Chuck Michalek, Chairman Eastland Centennial Commemorative Project
Welcome	Bill Hudecek, Vice President Bohemian National Cemetery Association
Remarks	Ted Wachholtz, President Eastland Disaster Historical Society
Remarks	Alberta Adamson, President Eastland Fellowship Authority Center for History, Wheaton IL
Unveiling	
Floral Tribute	Bořek Lizec, Consul General of the Czech Republic in Chicago
Blessing	Rev. Wayne Matulionis, S.S.D. Servant Catholic Church
Poetry and Artwork	T. G. Masaryk Czech School Children
Largo Theme from Dvořák's 9th Symphony	Klára Moldová, Violin

Thank you to teachers Irena Čajková and Klára Moldová
and the children of the T. G. Masaryk Czech School in Cicero, Illinois

Matyáš Balcar, 7
Sára Balcarová, 6
Daniel Hanulík, 7
Sebastian Hanulík, 13
Bára Hofmannová, 6

Ella Hofmannová, 12
Sivan Knafo 6
Albert Mech, 6
Jerry Mech, 8
Emma Mechová, 8

Josephine Menšíková, 8
Sam Parci, 8 let
Linda Ticháčková, 9
Sandra Ticháčková, 12
Tina Ticháčková, 9