

## *A note from the President*

Dear Friends of Midland,

When I look back over the years of our work at Midland, I see the great accomplishments that the Friends made. We are to be proud that we have weathered the multitude of hot days, insects and wild grasses that sometimes surprise us with the little critters that I seem to run from. Midland is no longer a dump, but a beautiful place to visit and relax. People from all over can come to search for history and create stories from their genealogy while finding their roots along the way.

Yes, my friends we have come a long way, but we could not have done it without your help and support. As you look around the cemetery, everything from the shed that holds the tools, many donated by Swatara Township, to the new monument and flag pole placed there by the Rotary Club and the Borough of Steelton, to the maintenance of the cemetery which is made possible with your contributions, support and encouragement, would not be possible without you. For this, I thank you.

I also thank my board members, who are my second family. Believe me when I say that we act like true sisters and brothers. I cannot help but smile because of their love, unselfishness, and devotion to our cemetery. I did say OUR cemetery. I say this because it belongs to all of us and we all must do whatever it takes to take care of Midland. Continue to support us as we forge on with restoring, and preserving, along with educating the masses about the reclaimed Midland Cemetery.

A special thanks to my brothers of the USCT that travel many miles to support us, George Nagle for the tremendous job that he has done on our website under Afrolumens, my children and grandchildren for the hugs, and last but not least, welcome back David Harris, our main man who fixes the beat up tools...we love you.

Blessings to you all

Barbara Barksdale  
President, Friends of Midland, May 27, 2006

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*On our cover are images of Memorial Days, past and present. At top left is a recruiting poster from World War I, depicting an African American man, newly enlisted, saying goodbye to his sweetheart as he prepared to ship out to Europe in 1918. Entitled, "The Colored Man is No Slacker," it pointed out that African American men made up several regiments of troops involved in the fighting.*

*To the right is the Midland Cemetery sign, which graces our front border. Below the sign is the gravestone of Civil War veteran William Jackson of the 45<sup>th</sup> USCT, one of the people we honor today. At the left is a photograph from last year's program: Pvt. Becton and 1st Sgt. Minus, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> USCT, post the colors. Finally, at the bottom, an enlargement of a local newspaper article that described how the African American residents of Steelton assembled in 1900 and paraded to Midland Cemetery, in the same tradition that we honor today.*