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NEWS

Those buried on Bryce Hospital grounds will always be remembered

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On Sunday, April 18, an historic event will take place at Bryce Hospital, unlike any other since Alabama's first hospital for the treatment of those experiencing mental illness was opened in 1861.

The Alabama Department of Mental Health and its Bryce Hospital Historic Preservation Committee are holding a tribute to those buried on Bryce grounds. It is to let all know that what is thought to be thousands who died at Bryce, mostly patients with vast numbers of their burials not even marked, are remembered by the State Mental Health Department and will always be remembered.

Members of the committee, appointed by Mental Health Commissioner John Houston in 2008, hope the event will rectify, at least in small measure, decades of cemetery neglect and deliberate abuse. It is high time.

Set for 2 p.m. in the Bryce Chapel, the dedication will include unveiling of four historic markers for the four remaining sites of the divided Bryce Cemetery. The artistic rendering of a granite monument in memory of the deceased will also be unveiled. Each of the markers, under aegis of the Alabama Historical Commission, was paid for privately.

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