

A \$250,000 environmental gift to the American people

WANTAGE — Miles and Lisa Kuperus, Chris Dragon and Rich Kalish, with Farmside Landscape & Design, a member of the Professional Landcare Network, participated in "Renewal & Remembrance" at Arlington National Cemetery and Historic Congressional Cemetery on Monday, July 24.

Hundreds of lawn care, landscape, and tree care companies from across the nation brought their crews to both cemeteries and spent the day mulching, pruning, liming, planting, and aerating. An irrigation system was also installed at Arlington National Cemetery. The gift of time and services is valued at more than \$250,000.

"This was a tremendous opportunity for us to demonstrate our professional skills and care for two important American monuments," states Phil Fogarty, a member and organizer of the event, now in its 10th year.

Many members have special connections to Arlington National Cemetery, either through relatives and friends who are buried there or through their own military service.

For Farmside's, Lisa Kuperus, was brought back to where her father served in the Old Guard and had the duty of guarding J.F. Kennedy's grave site during his years of service in the Army.

"It is great to have an opportunity personally and as business with our staff to give back to our country. Remembering those who have given their lives for our freedoms that we enjoy each day, while at the same time helping to maintain the beauty of their resting grounds. For me personally to be where my father spent many of his days was a special time."

The day began at Arlington National Cemetery with

a ceremony featuring a joint color guard and speaker presentations to dedicate the day of work to those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Miles Kuperus and Dragon worked on heading crews in the planting of new trees in shrubs surrounding the visitors' center, while Kalish was a team captain helping a crew lime a section of the 250 acres of the 600 acres of cemetery grounds that needed to be treated this year.

"This was the most significant project that PLANET will carry out this year," notes Fogarty. "The natural beauty and quiet grace of these cemeteries make them places that we feel compelled to take care of and protect. This extremely worthwhile, and meaningful project demonstrates our honor and remembrance of America's veterans and leaders."

To date, the project has given more than \$1 million in goods, services, and labor to Arlington National and Historic Congressional cemeteries.

The weekend event continued on Tuesday, July 25, with members visiting their congressional leaders on capitol hill and spoke with them about issues facing the green industry, including the immigration bill.

