

# Business News

## Landscapers join project at Arlington Cemetery

**Part of Professional Landcare Network:** Volunteered for Renewal & Remembrance event

**WANTAGE** — Farmside Landscape and Design employees joined hundreds of landscape and lawn care specialists from across the nation — members of the Professional Landcare Network (PLANET) — bringing their crews to Arlington National and Historic Congressional cemeteries for the 12th annual Renewal & Remembrance on July 21 and 22.

On this, the largest green industry day of service in the nation, more than 300 companies spent the day mulching, caring for trees and cabling them with lightning protection, pruning, liming, planting, aerating, and installing an irrigation system at Arlington National Cemetery. This gift is valued at more than \$350,000 in products and services. To date, PLANET has contributed almost \$2 million to the care of these historic landmarks.

"We consider it an honor and privilege to be able to give back by improving the grounds at Arlington National Cemetery," said Miles Kuperus Jr., owner of Farmside. We basically keep the weekend as a must-do event on our calendar and adjust our work schedules accordingly to bring our team leaders and family of five with us. They love to participate and it is a small way that we can make a difference

and support military families."

### Children lay wreath at Tomb of Unknown Soldier

The Kuperus family, in particular, had a special part in this year's event as two of their children, Racheal (12) and Richard (10), were able to participate in the wreath laying ceremony, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Racheal and Richard said, "We did not know what to expect, but knew it was something really special. Once we met the guardsmen and they spoke with us, we realized even more what an honor it was to be participating in a wreath laying ceremony with them. We learned that the soldiers are very disciplined, and well trained to perform their task." Even more, "it showed us how our grandfather, a former guardsman, was trained and what he did in the color guard when he served in the Army guarding Kennedy's tomb."

Many PLANET members have special connections at the cemeteries either through relatives and friends who are buried there or through their own military service. While working, over 32 funerals occurred, and the Kuperus family was able to witness several with full honors



**Kuperus family with grandparents at Arlington National Cemetery**

and caissons.

Renewal & Remembrance, which began 12 years ago as a small, one-day event, has grown to include more and more PLANET members and their families, as well as company employees. The event now includes special children's projects. This year, children planted flowers in key locations at the cemetery, in addition to participating in the laying of the wreath ceremony.

The day after working at the cemetery, Kuperus and his two sons joined other PLANET members visiting and meeting their congressional and senate leaders on Capitol Hill to speak with them about is-

sues facing the green industry, including the H-2B guest worker program.

Farmside Landscape & Design is a full service landscape contractor offering landscape design, installation and maintenance service. They can be reached at 973-875-7200 or by visiting [www.farmside.com](http://www.farmside.com).

With more than 4,200 member companies and affiliates, PLANET represents more than 100,000 green industry professionals. Kuperus serves on the PLANET board of directors and is active in the government affairs. For more information visit [www.LandcareNetwork.org](http://www.LandcareNetwork.org) or call the PLANET office at 800-305-2527.