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First Lady Designates Two New Preserve America Stewards

Washington, D.C.—First Lady of the United States Michelle Obama has signed designation letters for two new Preserve America Stewards, bringing the total nationwide to 56.

The newest to join the honor roll include Friends of Burial Hill, Inc. in Massachusetts helping to preserve Plymouth's Burial Hill Cemetery; and Friends of Lakewold in Washington, preserving a 1918 estate and gardens.

“Preserve America Stewards are volunteer programs that have demonstrated success in saving historic places in the best tradition of the national historic preservation movement,” said Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA, chairman of the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP).

“Preservation has always relied upon motivated, active volunteers who band together to make certain that significant historic places remain to enrich and enlighten present and future generations.”

Massachusetts: The Friends of Burial Hill was founded in 2010 to preserve Plymouth's Burial Hill cemetery, one of the country's earliest English colonial burying grounds. Volunteers assist with grounds maintenance, act as tour guides, conduct research, and work to conserve historic grave markers. Their work has reversed years of previous neglect and community disinterest.

Washington: The Friends of Lakewold works to preserve Lakewold estate, which includes a 1918 Georgian-style house and 10 acres of historic gardens. The gardens have evolved over almost 100 years, with significant contributions by famous landscape architect Thomas Church. Volunteers maintain the house and gardens, act as docents, provide horticultural education, and promote tourism to the site.

For more information on the Preserve America Stewards program, see www.preserveamerica.gov/stewards.html.

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