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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ramaker & Associates Helps Preserve Data for Cemetery in Path of Katrina

On August 29th, the 30-foot storm surge leveled the City of Gulfport Cemeteries' office building, located two blocks from the beach, in Gulfport, Mississippi. Years of plot and operations information, recorded on thousands of cemetery lot cards, was lost. To add to the confusion, the loss of life in Gulfport created an immediate need for burial plots. However, in the months prior to Katrina's wrath, the Gulfport Cemeteries had shipped all of their lot cards and cemetery maps to Ramaker & Associates, Inc., located in Sauk City, Wisconsin, to be scanned for integration into the CIMS™ Cemetery Management Software. Ramaker & Associates had completed the scanning of all this information and sent it back to the cemeteries' office, where it was washed away in the storm. Shortly after the hurricane passed, the City of Gulfport urgently needed the information from the missing lot cards. "A week after the hurricane passed, we received a call from Vicki Parkhill, of the City of Gulfport Cemeteries, asking if we had any information from the records they sent us," said Brandon Finley, Director of CIMS™ at Ramaker & Associates. "Fortunately we had everything they sent us in digital format. Within 24 hours we were able to email them electronic copies of all their documents, and within a week, we sent them hard copy versions of all their lot and burial cards. I was glad we could help them out at a time like that." In the next few months, Ramaker will complete the integration of all the scanned data and maps into their CIMS™ Software. Many cemeteries are migrating their data to a software program like CIMS for greater efficiency and accuracy. Mr. Finley points out, "We try to emphasize the disaster recovery benefit also, but it's not one that most people think about. This is the first large scale disaster that we can actually point to as an example where data automation will literally save a cemetery from total record loss."

Ramaker & Associates is the developer of CIMS™ Cemetery Management Software. For more information please contact 1-800-332-7532 or visit us on the web at www.ramaker.com.

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