Proposal to Add Grave Emoji

To: Unicode Consortium
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Abstract
This submission is a request to add a grave/tombstone and to the Unicode emoji set. The tombstone is a common symbol to respect dead relatives and there is no current emoji that conveys such emotion. The author proposes converting U+26FC (Headstone Graveyard Symbol) to an emoji symbol as it is currently unimplemented across devices.

Introduction
The core of the human experience revolves around birth and death. Since the first human tribes or civilizations were developed these two core facets of human life have been celebrated, feared, and intertwined through religion, cuisine, literature, and many other factors of human civilization. Death is a part of every person’s life, and it is only appropriate that we have a character to represent the idea and experience of death.

In addition to the heavy-handed tone, death has also made itself part of pop culture in a jovial fashion such as the phrase “I’m dead” or “I’m dying of laughter”. RIP is a common response to such jokes and also a common lament to deaths. “As dead as a doornail”, “dead air”, “Over my dead body”, a multitude of phrases exist using death as a theme.

Names
CLDR short name: grave
CLDR keywords: grave | tombstone | rip
Images

Artwork by Philippe Kimura-Thollander. Licensed for noncommercial use: free to share and use.

Compatibility

The author is unaware of any grave or incense images used in any major platform (Google, Apple, Snapchat, Facebook). A gravestone emoji provides an opportunity to respectfully represent the dead, and compliment the urn emoji. It is important to note that U+26FC, is supposed to represent a headstone, however no vendor currently implements this symbol and thus it could be converted to an emoji.
Expected Usage

A. Frequency

The expected usage of a grave emoji is high. Compared to its contemporaries, such as coffin, urn, or skull and crossbones, the grave term outranks all but coffin, but only recently, perhaps owing to its creation of being an emoji.

B. Multiple Uses

Graves are referenced in multiple idioms, such as You can “swear on your mother’s grave” to keep a secret, or perhaps “dig you own grave” by making a mistake, and people might be “spinning in their grave” if something happens that is against their beliefs or teachings. And of course, they can represent “Rest in Peace”, the common phrase of respect towards the dead.
Graves can also be used in phrases unrelated to death, such as “It’s a graveyard out here” indicating lack of people, or “graveyard shift” meaning working overnight shifts. Extending the meaning to death opens up many other idioms, like: “As dead as a doornail”, “dead air”, “Over my dead body”, “beat a dead horse”, etc.

C. Use in Sequences
The Grave emoji could be used with 🙏 when a loved one has passed, or with 😂☠️ when joking about something being so funny that you’re dead.

D. Breaking New Ground
No.

Image Distinctiveness
A grave emoji would be visually distinct due to its rounded tombstone shape. The closes emoji in terms of shape might be mailbox, (depending on its depiction), but they are usually shown in a landscape form versus the portrait from a grave has. Although graves are usually just grey, the addition of grass or ground can be more colorful and provide more visual clarity.

Completeness
The grave emoji would help round out the emojis that help convey death and prayer, which include skull, skull and crossbones, urn, hands together, and coffin. These emojis represent death at different stages, and gravestone would help portray the time during which ancestors and ones who have passed away are remembered, respected, and not yet forgotten.
Factors for exclusion

A. Overly Specific
The grave emoji would not be overly specific. Occasionally people will use the skull/coffin or candle emoji to represent the grave or incense respectively, but lament the fact that they cannot accurately portray their meaning.

B. Open Ended
N/A. A grave has no similar representations.

C. Already Representable
The grave emoji cannot be represented with any other current emoji. The Dango emoji assistant\(^1\) (used in the prior Broccoli Emoji Proposal\(^2\)) suggests ◀️ ◁️ ▶️ for grave which is off the mark in terms of tone for grave.

D. Logos, brands, UI icons, etc
The grave emoji is not associated with any brand.

E. Transient
As long humans live, they will die, and we have continued to honor our dead relatives through graves and incense for thousands of years. These practices will not change for the foreseeable future.

F. Faulty Comparison
N/A

G. Exact Images
The proposal does not require an exact image.

\(^1\) https://getdango.com/
\(^2\) http://www.unicode.org/L2/L2016/16375-broccoli-emoji.pdf
Evidence of Frequency

A. Google Search

[Search results for "tombstone"]

[Search results for "rest in peace"]

[Search results for "coffin"]

B. Bing Search

[Search results for "tombstone"]

[Search results for "rest in peace"]
C. Youtube Search

- Youtube search for "tombstone": About 2,680,000 results
- Youtube search for "rest in peace": About 10,500,000 results
- Youtube search for "coffin": About 1,740,000 results
D. Google Trends: Web Search

- **tombstone**
  - Search term

- **coffin**
  - Search term

- **rest in peace**
  - Search term

United States | 2004 - present | All categories | Web Search

Interest over time

![Graph showing search trends for 'tombstone', 'coffin', and 'rest in peace' over time.](image-url)
The image I am submitting does not have any significance that would make it unsuitable for encoding as a character. There are no copyright, religious, or issues that reference anyone historic or living.