

THE THANAGRAM

SUMMER • 2016

Official Publication of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

B. STEVEN SPANN, PRESIDENT • TFDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



This year is getting off to a very fast start for the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association. It is hard to believe it has been four weeks since the Convention. Where does the time go? We had a great convention in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. If you have not attended a convention at this facility you have missed out on a good time and a great learning experience.

I want to say thanks to everyone that attended (almost 600 people) and a special thanks to the all the companies that exhibited and sponsored events. Without these special companies, the TFDA and this great profession would not be where it is today. I personally am amazed at the creative innovations our valued vendors and suppliers come up with.

Let me also say a warm thank you to all the members of the TFDA for giving me this privilege of serving as President of this fine Association. This is something that I have wanted to do since attending Mortuary College in 1980 and attending my first convention. I am really looking forward to the challenges and opportunities that TFDA will experience this year. I am also honored and excited to be a part of the work of the Board of Directors of TFDA and each individual member of the association. We can and will accomplish great things, and please know my friends in funeral service that I am at your service, and welcome your suggestions and guidance.

The TFDA Board Members retreat was recently held in Dickson, TN. and I was so encouraged by the vision and leadership that this group of professionals brings to our organization.

This important meeting included the TFSI Board, each committee chair and the Sales Club officers. Our mission was to develop plans for the 2016 - 2017 year and I am happy to report that the meeting was highly successful. Plans are now in the works for some special endorsements, new educational seminars, legislative issues, donor services meetings, district meetings as well as the planning for next year's convention.

Also recently the National Funeral Directors Association's Leadership Conference was attended by several members of the TFDA Board and myself. This was a great opportunity for any TFDA member that aspires to develop their leadership skills, as well as learn about the profession on both the national and state level.

The NFDA leadership conference, already enjoys a rich history of creativity in leadership development and is a great tool for state associations to develop policies and plans for the future by learning how other state associations handle various activities. No one person has all the answers but together in this type of association the answers can and will be found.

I would like to ask all members of the Association to please contact me or the office if we can be of assistance to you or your funeral home because together there is no limit to our accomplishments. I look forward to seeing each of you at the upcoming district meetings.

I am humbled and proud to serve as your president. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Steve Spann



Our Mission:

To be the Tennessee Funeral Professionals leadership advocate, through communication, education and legislation; thereby empowering the licensed funeral professional the ability to serve at the highest level.

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2016 TFDA / TFSSC 113TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

JUNE 5 – 7, 2016

EMBASSY SUITES HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER • MURFREESBORO, TN

The TFDA/TFSSC 113th Annual Convention was held at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Murfreesboro, TN, June 5 – 7, 2016. There were sixty-four exhibitors represented in the exhibit hall, nine hearses and three special exhibits, John Gamble, Holley-Gamble Funeral Home, Clinton, TN, 1927 Model T; Ed Larson, McReynolds Nave & Larson Funeral Home, Clarksville, TN, 1957 Ambulance Hearse; and a Horse Drawn Hearse displayed by Jim Cortner, Moore Cortner Funeral Home in Winchester, TN. There were 120 TFDA member firms that supported the convention along with attendees from Kentucky and Alabama.

This year was a bit different with a NFDA Certified Crematory Operator Program that took place on Saturday, June 4th. NFDA Vice President, Mike Nicodemus presented a seven hour program.



Sunday, June 5th, the educational seminars began with Mr. Todd Van Beck, “The Assassination and Funeral of President Abraham Lincoln”. This seminar was well attended and Mr. Van Beck always does an exceptional job with his presentations. Mr. Van Beck also did an outstanding job serving also as the Convention Chaplain.

We so much appreciate Mr. Mike Nicodemus presenting “Communication Skills for Connecting with Cremation Families”. The program was designed to help assist funeral directors communicate properly with families that have chosen cremation as their choice of memorialization and disposition.

Rosemary Harrison, Memorial Service Chair, did a remarkable job assembling the choir and conducting this year’s memorial service. We have to thank Terry Cain, Bass-Mollett Publishers for sponsoring the memorial candles and video. This year we honored:



Buford Lee Hitchcock	Ernest “Bruce” Frazier	Pam Mundy	Marjorie “Margie” Nell
James “Jimmy” Lawrence	Harlon M. Saylor	Mabel Greene Jones	Parish Myers
Barbara Jean Manes Burkhart	Karen Jones England	Mattie Rayon Butler	James Silas Wilson
Luther Davis West	Jane Gray “Bunny” Sowell	Leon Johnson	Hazel South Hoyle
Michael “Mike” Wayne Capps	Paul “Moon” Roberson	James Roosevelt Baldwin	Vida E. Chaffin Anderson
William Edward Dickerson	Robert Eugene “Bob” Thomas	William “Bill” Brevard Smith	Chester Marvel South
Rex B. Jeffers	J.L. Austin	Willene Wills Agee	Emily Jo Gamble Lawson
Stephen Roy “Digger” Mize	Mary Sue Thompson Looney	Jessie Lou Duncan	Clyde Stephens
Mary Gladys Hudgens Nash	Joyce Forehand Taylor	William “Mike” Smith	

Thank you Jeff Shackelford and Mike Smalley for lending your talents at the Memorial Service. We are grateful to have such gifted people in our association.



*Memorial Service Choir members:
Mike Smalley, Jeff Shackelford, Dale Layne, Kandy Shackelford, Justin Jeffers, Brent McNeeley, Dawn Taylor, Jim Taylor, Barbara Bowers, John Scoble, Roger Ballentine, Susie Sowell, Charlotte Williams, Larry Baldwin*



After the delightful celebration of life Memorial Service it was the grand opening of the exhibits!

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Wilbert Vaults of TN

Yarbrough Mortuary Services

Thank you very much exhibitors and sponsors that made this year's convention a huge victory. Without their support this convention would not have taken place!

Then it was the Atlantic Coast Life Insurance Company sponsored Ice Cream Social. They did such a great job with their choice of balloon sculptures, ice cream, cookies and brownies. Everyone had a great time coming together and relaxing.

Monday morning we began the day with the TFDA and TFSSC Joint Business Meetings. The two associations come together to honor the 50 Year of Service recipients:

Albert Atchley, Atchley Funeral Home, Sevierville, TN

John Gamble, Holley-Gamble Funeral Home, Clinton, TN

Jimmy "Pistol" Hay, Upton-Hay Funeral Home, Celina, TN

Richard Jeffers, Jeffers Funeral Home, Greeneville, TN

Martin L. Bartling, III, Bridges Funeral Home, Knoxville, TN

Monday for the Joint Luncheon, Mike Hays presented *"You Can't Keep a Possum in the House"*. Mike is a story teller and entertained the attendees after a delightful lunch. After lunch it was time to visit the exhibit hall.



Monday night was the Silent and Live Auction. John Higgins, Auctioneer, Bob Parks Realty and Auction helped auction the large items donated. Below is the list of what was donated and who won:

Donation Item	Contributor	Winner
Wilbert Ladies Watch	Wilbert Vaults of TN	Allie Ridgeway
John Deere print	Curries Funeral Home	Angela Sims
Yetti Rambler/gift card	Dyersburg Funeral Home	Angie Ridgeway
Warm vanilla sugar gift basket	TLC Mortuary Service	Becky Hysmith
LED Headlight	Applied Lighting	Brad Ridgeway
two bottle wine cooler	Applied Lighting	Chris Christian
Out of Past print	Muster Coaches	Chris Speck
Go Pro	State Auto Insurance	Colby Conder
LED lighted canvas	Curries Funeral Home	Danny Hurt
limited edition Glidden print	John Smith	Dawn Elliott
Patriotic Picnic set	Williamson Memorial Funeral Home	Debbie Moore
golf balls, hat, towel	Ridgeway Funeral Home	Eli Ridgeway
Night before Christmas platter	Tony Hysmith, Shackelford Funeral Directors	Eric Carpenter
One men's suit	Mitchell Suits	Garry Hood
Urn package (3)	Matthews/Aurora Funeral Solutions	Garry Hood
Planters (2)	Spann Funeral Home	Glen King
Signed Golf Bag	Glen King	Jack Farrar
Tidings from the front print	Layne Funeral Home	Jack Farrar
Leaving Home print	Layne Funeral Home	Jerry Griffey
TN tailgate gear	John Yopp, Southern Funeral Director	Jim Cortner
Day at Beach gift bag	Austin F	Mandi Marlin
Movie night gift pack	John Smith	Montrey Moore
Loveless Café Basket	Rose Greene, Capstone Preneed Funding Solutions	Nash Moore
Table lamp	Curries Funeral Home	Pam Stephens
Golf package	CSSI	Pam Stephens
Go Vols gift basket	Lea and Simmons Funeral Home	Randy Nash
Fido dog gift basket	TLC Mortuary Service	Samantha Hood Williams
Lady spa basket	Karnes and Son Funeral Home	Samantha Hood Williams
Full throttle gift basket	Karnes and Son Funeral Home	Samantha Hood Williams
Register book packets (3)	Matthews/Aurora Funeral Solutions	Samantha Hood Williams
Fido large dog gift basket	TLC Mortuary Service	Tessa Armbrister
Sweet tea gift basket	TLC Mortuary Service	Wendy Speck
Live Auction Items		
Woods of TN rocker	Tennessee Chair Co	Dale Layne
Woods of TN child rocker	Tennessee Chair Co	Murry Moore
Baseball Bat	Tennessee Chair Co	Chris Christian
Twenty Ga. Casket	Cremation & Funeral Solutions	Murry Moore
Lotion (2)	Dodge	Dale Layne
Keurig 2.0 coffee maker	Global Atlantic Financial Company	Jacky Purcell
Dakota Poplar casket	Matthews/ Aurora	Tony Sowell
18ga Casket	Batesville Casket Co	Steve Spann
Cherry Wood Lectern	Tennessee Casket Co	Chris Speck
Urn		Bubba Woodfin



Because of all the people that participated in the Silent and Live Auctions, we raise approximately \$6,300.00. We could not have done it without all your help. Thank you for this accomplishment!



Tuesday was the Convention Golf Tournament. There were 72 golfers and thanks to Matthews Aurora and Wilbert for their support of this event. TFSSC raised over \$1,000 from this event due to Matthews Aurora and Wilbert covering the expenses. Thank you Bill Hudson for another successful Golf Tournament!

Jack Adams presented a 3-hour presentation *“Competence In Analyses Increasing Embalming Capability”*. A huge thank you goes out to Ken Collins, Dodge and Music City Mortuary for sponsoring Jack Adams seminar.

The Grand Banquet was GREAT! Johnny Counterfit put on such a fun show. It became more of a sing along with all the people that Johnny could impersonate!

The 2016 Wall of Fame Honorees

Each year at the convention there are special people recognized for all they have done for the association and funeral industry. This year's honoree was Mr. Jacky E. Carver, Sr. Please read what was said about Jacky and his legacy.



“No doubt we have all heard of the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Baseball Hall of Fame and the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Well, TFDA has its own “Wall of Fame”; to honor those funeral directors among us that have gone above and beyond the call of duty. They are special; they are our heroes, our legends.

I am honored to be here; to induct the 2016 honoree into the TFDA Wall of Fame. I must admit after my good friend Tony Hysmith called me and asked me to do this tonight, I had to remind myself a few times this wasn't a roast; because I could have come up with some good material for that too.

But seriously; tonight's honoree, like others before, has all the traits of a great funeral director. In 1963 Clark Grave Vault Co. printed an ad entitled “The Man You Lean on in a Lonely Hour; Your Funeral Director”. Well; tonight's honoree is someone countless families in his community have come to lean on in their time of need. Someone for the families he serves; has replaced confusion with calm, doubts with certainty, questions with answers. He is someone who knows what to do for his families, and goes about it quietly, gently, sympathetically; with efficiency and dignity. An island of calm in a sad and difficult time; he has been there to help, to reassure and direct; all while taking care of a multitude of necessary details. But beyond all that, he is a model citizen of his community and a good neighbor. He takes great pride in his profession, the practice of it and its advancement.

A baby-boomer, he was born June 6, 1947, carried home in an ambulance by the man who would later give him his job at the funeral home he would also later come to own.

He began his career in funeral service like a lot of us, as a kid in high school. He left his job behind the soda fountain at the local drug store and was given a job by a man who became his mentor. A man who saw that he had what it took, he had a gift; he had a future in funeral service. He started out washing the ambulances and hearses, mowed the yard and made ambulance calls. He was the only kid in high school with a Ford Falcon with a red light on top. He still owns that car today. A natural leader, he was the drum major in high school and voted most talented by his senior class. After graduating from high school he attended John A. Gupton College and graduated in 1966. He roomed with Jess “Cooter” Bowen III of Waverly. The two formed a bond and a lasting friendship that continues today. He returned to his hometown and in 1968 he married the love of his life, an elementary school teacher; who became the perfect funeral director's wife. What a fine lady she is, in her own right. In 1969 he became a partner in the funeral home. He served as director of his county's ambulance service, and yes, he had his share of ambulance wrecks, most of which the ambulance was totaled. He was told by his boss early on “son if you wreck it, you better total it, so we can get a new one”.

He was a charter member of the rescue squad; he is the only surviving charter member today. He was a member of the city fire department and has been the Chief of the county fire department since 1976. He has served on the E911 Board, Library Board, Chamber of Commerce, and the Upper Cumberland Council for the Aging. He has served on the John A. Gupton College Board of Directors since 1985. He was instrumental in the founding of Tennessee Funeral Security Incorporated, served on its board of directors and served as President for 14 years. He is a Past President of TFDA. While President of TFDA he travelled across the state and taught funeral directors how become compliant with the then newly instituted FTC Rules. He has served TFDA in many capacities through the years and currently serves as an influential voice on the Governmental Affairs Committee. He has served on the states Emergency





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Services Board and the Cemetery Advisory Board. He was a founding partner in a monument company for 43 years. He owned and operated cemeteries for 38 yrs. He currently owns and operates two funeral homes and is a partner in a crematory. He received his 50 years of service award from TFDA in 2013.

He is an Elder in the Church of Christ, has taught Sunday school and serves as the church treasurer. He is an avid Coca-Cola memorabilia collector. He enjoys getting away to the farm and he and his wife enjoy travelling, especially to Pennsylvania and New England and he is a season ticket holder to Dollywood. He and his wife of forty years, Jacqueline, have one son very active in the family funeral business today, Jacky Jr.; daughter-in-law, Liz; and two grandchildren: Corey and Gracie.

I could tell many funny stories about tonight's honoree and some... probably not so funny to him, but for the sake of time, we'll go on.

This year's honoree is very special to me. He is a man I have looked up to practically all of my life; a man that gave me my first job. I've always hoped that; just maybe; he saw in me; what Draper Jenkins saw in him. I will never forget, I was in the 8th grade the first time I rode with him in the hearse to the cemetery. Boy was I on cloud nine. I thought I was Big Pete. We have shared many, good times together. When my partner David Brooks and I worked for him we were all like family; through good; fun times; and even some squabbles too. Tonight, It is a privilege for me to announce that the "2016 Wall of Fame" Inductee, is Mr. Jacky Carver Sr. of Sanderson Funeral Homes, Carthage, Smith County, TN."

~ Presented By Clark McKinney on Behalf of TFDA Wall of Fame Committee

The Tennessee Funeral Supply Sales Club honored two special people this year. And they are Mr. Bill Dobson and Mr. Bobby Herring.

2016 TFSSC Wall of Fame Recipient — Mr. Bobby Herring

The Tennessee Funeral Supply Sales Club is very honored and proud to announce the two recipients of the 2016 TFSSC Wall of Fame. A Wall of Fame Recipient is one that has gone above and beyond to serve the funeral industry in this ... our State of Tennessee, Region and even the Nation we live in.



The first of tonight's honoree's, is one that has been just that, a person who has gone above and beyond for the industry he so greatly loves, Mr. Bobby Dale Herring.

Bobby was born and raised in Mississippi. After graduating high school, Bobby joined the armed services in the United States Air Force. After his service to our Country, Bobby decided that funeral service would be his chosen profession. He elected to attend Commonwealth College of Funeral Service in Houston, TX.

Upon graduating from Mortuary College, Bob started his funeral career working and driving the ambulance for Memphis Funeral Home in Memphis, TN. After several years of learning the trade and serving countless families in their greatest time of need, Bobby decided to further pursue his love of the industry by going to work for an embalming company – Morticians Supply Company which later changed to Pierce Chemicals.

Bobby found the love of his life, Patty. They married and had one son.

Bobby continued his service to funeral directors as his territory increased in, not only Mississippi, but also Tennessee, Arkansas, Missouri and Western Kentucky.

Bobby was elected to the TFSSC Board of Directors and served in the position of TFSSC President 1987 – 88.

Bobby is now enjoying retirement and continues his relationships with many of his colleges and customers that he served for his 45+ years career. Bobby now loves the extra time he has to spend with his loving wife Miss Patty and the grand- daughter that basically hung the moon in the sky.



Bobby was known by his trademark wardrobe and car.....white car, gray pants and black coat!

Bobby stated upon his retirement, "I have been highly blessed to be of service to several funeral homes with multi generations! I have enjoyed watching the next generation take over and continue the family business. When I started working with Pierce, I consider you all my customers, and after all these years, I not consider you all a part of my family".

We congratulate the 2016 Recipient of the TFSSC Wall of Fame....Mr. Bobby Dale Herring.



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Mr. Bill Dodson — 2016 TFSSC Wall of Fame Recipient

Floor Sweep, cold apples and be like him!!!

We would like to announce the 2016 Wall of Fame Honoree.....Mr. Bill Dodson of Clarksburg Casket.

Bill was born in Rutledge, TN, to Robert E and Trula Dodson. As a teen, he worked for his cousin Lawrence Smith at Smith Funeral Home in Rutledge. This is where he developed his desire to be in funeral service.

After high school graduation, he attended Carson Newman College, served 2 years in the U.S. Air Force and graduated from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1955. Bill then went to work at Rose Mortuary in Knoxville, TN.

In 1957, "Billy Ray" married Betty Lou" Johnson from Rutledge, TN. They have one daughter, Sandra Kay.

They moved to Kingsport where Bill worked for 10 years with Hamlett-Dodson and then 16 years in management of funeral homes and cemeteries. During this time, he was on the East TN Funeral Directors Association Board and a member of the Board of the Tennessee Cemetery Association.



In 1981, Bill accepted the position as a Sales Representative for Clarksburg Casket Company serving Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Western Kentucky and Northern Georgia. During this time in sales, he travelled 65,000 miles per year to cover his territory as well as manage the Clarksburg Kingsport warehouse.

Bill attended the State Conventions as well as 7 National Conventions with NFDA.

Bill was named Clarksburg's Salesman of the Year in 1993 and was appointed to the Clarksburg's President's Club for this exemplary sales performance.

With Bill's kind, easy going nature, sense of humor and meticulous attention to detail, he influenced many...to enter the funeral profession. He truly enjoyed his job and took great pride in providing excellent service to the families and the funeral directors he served. Bill has made many friends in the funeral industry...he has the respect of all sales and company representatives of that he has come in contact with.

December 1, 1997, Bill had a massive heart attack while on vacation in Naples, FL. He was shocked 7 times by EMS Workers and was on a respirator and in a coma for 36 hours. He regained consciousness and within the week he was moved to a regular room in the hospital. During that time, he was taking calls from his customers and taking casket orders from his hospital bed! He fully recovered and was back at work full time within a few weeks. As his daughter Sandy stated "We definitely have a lot to be thankful for!"

Sandy, we have a lot to be thankful for!!! To those that paid attention to this man, this gentleman, they are the ones that have been blessed!!



We congratulate the 2016 Recipient of the TFSSC Wall of Fame...Mr. Bill Dodson.

And for the finally, Charlotte Williams, Batesville Casket Company won the \$1000.00 Cash Give Away!

There are so many people to thank for making this a great convention:

- Music City Mortuary Service for moving the TFDA office to the hotel and back.
- Eric and Brenda Carpenter for all their help in organizing the Silent and Live Auction, and their help with the registration desk.
- Brad Ridgeway, Roger Balentine, and Randy Nash running the registration desk.
- Greg Rush for being the best Convention Chair ever!



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TENNESSEE DONOR SERVICES ANNOUNCES STAFF ADDITION



I want to give you all an update on some fantastic things that are happening with our partners at Tennessee Donor Services (TDS).

First, most of you know Dennis Hamilton, a respected leader in our profession for over 40 years. You will remember, Dennis was the President of our Association in the early 90s, past President of the State

Regulatory Board, and has spent the last several years as a consultant in Memphis after almost three decades with Memorial Park Funeral Home and Cemetery there.

I am thrilled to tell you that Dennis will be joining Tennessee Donor Services as Funeral Home Liaison. I couldn't be happier that we have "one of our own" working at TDS. Dennis' appointment cements Jill and her team's commitment to working closely with us to:

- Strengthen our relationship with our partners in the Tennessee donor program, and improve our service to families who rely on us.

- Work to further enhance relationships with funeral homes, hospitals, and medical examiners that share in making end-of-life processes as comforting for families as possible.

- Lead the development and implementation of educational and training programs with TDS and our other partners.

I am proud of TDS for investing in Dennis to make our work together the very best it can be.

TDS has taken other exceptional steps forward as well. You may remember, I wrote in our last newsletter about TDS's pledge to improve response times, as well as their assurance for increased engagement and training with funeral

homes and hospitals. I am proud to report these very concrete and exciting advancements:

Recovery and Response

TDS began measuring and reporting the time it takes to finish a recovery, or to inform the hospital and funeral home that the patient will not be a donor. These times are steadily decreasing as TDS continues to monitor and improve both processes.

TDS has made marked improvements in tissue recovery processes and education, further decreasing delays in speaking with families and completing the paperwork in a more effective manner.

Referrals are being made notably sooner and families are being offered the opportunity to donate before they leave the hospital.

If TDS has been unable to reach the family after 2 hours, TDS coordinators are working collaboratively with funeral homes to reach families as quickly as possible.

Consistent communication with funeral homes has been considerably increased.

Training

- Fall regional trainings are being scheduled for Nashville, Knoxville and Jackson, and will include recovery and reconstruction demonstrations and embalming techniques.

- CEU's will be available from the TFDA.

Let me say again how happy I am to be a part of this work, and how impressed I am with TDS' immediate progress. We will continue to offer our feedback to TDS to further refine the processes they develop to best serve families. Ongoing dialogue about how we continually improve the processes that drive our missions is vital to all our successes. And, working together ensures our success.



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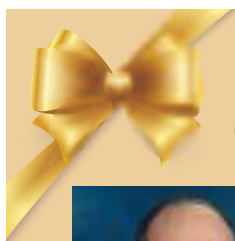
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Obituaries



David Hardison

Mr. David G. Hardison, age 65, of Lewisburg, TN died May 14, 2016, at Maury Regional Hospital. He was the father of Greg Hardison, co-owner of London Funeral Home in Lewisburg, TN.



David Hill

Mrs. Kendra Jo "Jody" Hill, age 56 and **Mr. David Dwayne Hill**, age 46 of Lebanon, TN died Friday afternoon, May 27, 2016 in a motorcycle accident. They were the mother and step father of Taylor Badger who is an employee at Anthony Funeral Home in Hartsville, TN.



Eleanor Flowers

Mrs. Opal Ruth Wilder Stapleton, age 91, died June 2, 2016. Mrs. Stapleton is the mother of Keith Stapleton, manager of Murfreesboro Funeral Home, Murfreesboro, TN. Keith is also on the TFDA Auction Committee.



Bonnie Bell

Mrs. Grace Potts, age 88, died June 4, 2016. Grace died peacefully with her family by her side. Preceded in death by her husband of 47 years, Herman P. Potts. Grace and her husband, Herman, opened Woodbine Funeral Home in September 1955; and in January of 1987, they opened Woodbine Funeral Home, Hickory Chapel.

Mrs. Eleanor Flowers, age 87 of Rutherford, Tennessee passed away on Saturday, June 25, 2016. Mrs. Flowers is the grandmother of Marc Sims, owner of Karnes & Son Funeral Home in Rutherford, Tennessee.

Janice (Jan) Anderson of Cross Plains, TN passed away on June 28, 2016. She is the wife of Ken Anderson, co-owner of Anderson and Garrett Funeral Home, Joelton, TN.

Mrs. Bonnie Bell, died peacefully and unexpectedly July 9th, 2016 at her retreat in North Carolina. Mrs. Bell was the wife of the late Carney Bell. She is also the step-mother of Bob Bell, owner of the Austin & Bell Funeral Homes in Springfield, Pleasant View, Greenbrier, White House and Hendersonville, TN.



Opal Stapleton



Grace Potts



Jan Anderson



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