

THE THANAGRAM

NEW YEARS • 2017

Official Publication of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

In This Issue

A BRIEF
HISTORY OF
THE
TENNESSEE
FUNERAL
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

HOW TO BE
YOUR
BEST TO
SERVE AT
YOUR BEST

TFSD/TFDA
ENDORSES
INVESTORS
HERITAGE
LIFE INS. CO.

OBITUARIES

TFSD/TFDA
ENDORSES
MATTHEWS-
AURORA
FUNERAL
SOLUTIONS

CHRIS
CHRISTIAN,
NFDA POLICY
BOARD REP.
REPORTS

MARK YOUR
CALENDARS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

B. STEVEN SPANN, PRESIDENT • TFDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Greetings TFDA Members,

First of all I would like to take this moment, at the beginning of a new year to say a warm and sincere thank you for your membership and support of our association. As your President I don't believe mere words can adequately express to you my personal appreciation. Funeral Service is a much better profession because of the history, activities, and presence of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association which is a long fancy named meaning YOU! Thank YOU!

I trust that everyone had a safe and blessed holiday season and now enjoying the New Year. It is the almost the end of January and my year as TFDA President is half over. Time sure fly's by when you are having fun!

It has been my privilege and honor to have served on the TFDA board in the past as well as serving you as the association's president this year.

Since we last communicated the officers and committee chairs have been busy planning for the district meetings and the convention in June. Here is what the calendar looks like.

The district meetings are scheduled for March 27, in East Tennessee, March 28 in Middle Tennessee, and March 30 in West Tennessee. The Board of Directors and the Convention Committee met last week to plan the 2017 Convention. The Convention is scheduled for June 4, 5, 6 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. The theme for the Convention is "Traditions in Transition in Funeral Service." This theme is very timely and appropriate because the programing is designed to combine the old and valued traditions of our profession with the new and valued innovation in funeral service.

It is important that you make your reservations early as the hotel can easily get sold out with other functions. I look forward very much to seeing you there.

The Legislative Committee has been very busy meeting monthly to review important issues that will affect each of us in funeral service. Hopefully, there has been some progress made on the Electronic Death Certificates, but "I know you have heard this before". Think positive and eventually "it will happen". The committee is also working with the state board on pet burial and disposition service issues, and continuing education issues that will benefit the funeral profession.

The Tennessee Funeral Directors Association's for-profit subsidiary, Tennessee Funeral Security, Inc., (TFSI) has recently endorsed Investors Heritage Insurance Company as the funeral insurance provider for our valued members in the great State of Tennessee. This is, in my humble opinion, a great decision and relationship for

TFDA/TFSI as Investors Heritage has been a dependable and longtime supporter of TFDA. They have attended meetings and exhibited at the state convention for the past two decades. Because of this history Investors Heritage seems like part of our TFDA family.

I personally take great comfort in knowing that Investors Heritage is a family operated concern which was started by the father of the company President Harry Lee Waterfield in Frankfort, Kentucky. I would be remiss if I also did not remind everyone that it was Investors Heritage that stepped up to the plate for us when the Franklin American Insurance Company failed in buying and servicing these policies.

As a practicing funeral professional and having used Investors Heritage for almost three decades, I can say with all candor that I have found them to be an exceptionally good company, very easy to work with, and their communication is excellent: you can always get an answer to your question promptly and accurately. Then add to all of these benefits that Investors Heritage provides a wonderful incentive trip annually for funeral homes that reach a certain sales quota, and what more can you ask for?

The service, and mission, the product, and the family oriented group activities that Investors participates in are why I am so pleased with this endorsement. It is truly and win/win for both TFDA and Investors Heritage.

TFSD and TFDA are also proud to announce endorsement of Matthews – Aurora Funeral Solutions as our Exclusive Premier Partner casket company. By partnering with Matthews – Aurora Funeral Solutions, association members will benefit from over one hundred and fifty years of international funeral knowledge and proficiency. Members will also gain advanced knowledge from the some of the world's leading speakers resulting from this agreement regarding TFDA sponsored educational functions and electronic media. Along with the education and competence TFDA members continue to benefit from the unrivaled excellence of quality and superior craftsmanship provided by Matthews-Aurora products.

TFSD/TFDA could not be more proud of our agreements with Investors Heritage Life and Matthews – Aurora Funeral Solutions. We urge all TFDA members to support these endorsed companies for the growth of your business and the continued strength of your Association. Lastly, if I can be of service to any of my fellow funeral service professionals please give me a call. "Don't forget to send in your membership dues" by the end of the month.

Thank you,
B. Steven Spann
TFDA President



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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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE TENNESSEE FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

BY TODD VAN BECK



The precise date that the Tennessee Funeral Directors started is fuzzy. What is known is that an original statewide call was made in 1883 by 26 undertaking firms who were interested in imitating the work being done in other states toward the betterment of the funeral profession through the creation of a professional association.

The following text was printed in a dateless issue of *"The Western Undertaker"*

which read:

"The state convention of all respectable funeral men of Tennessee will be held in this city (location unknown) on Wednesday, May 23, 1885, for the purpose of organizing a State Association and otherwise adopting measures for the promotion of the interest of our profession. Your presence is expected as a full representation is desired. Matters of the greatest importance to use will be considered. Half fare rates, no doubt, can be obtained as it will be Military Week (Military Week was similar to Veterans Day but was exclusively a Tennessee State event). You are cordially invited to participate in the proceedings."

This group failed to unite funeral professionals in Tennessee. Arguments and discord among the attendee's doomed this first association attempt, but regardless the seeds of organizational need had been planted by this pioneering group, and in time an attempt was made to try again and this time it was successful.

In 1887 a group of Tennessee undertakers held its first annual meeting in Nashville. Most of the funeral directors who had attempted the earlier organization were present and elected the first ever officers of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association. They were:

A. Barr of Columbia, President.

J. C. Wells of Franklin, First Vice-President.

L. C. Umphlette of Jackson, Second Vice-President.

Finley M. Dorris of Nashville, Secretary.

W. E. Cole of Goodlettsville, Treasurer.

At this meeting the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association was selected as the formal name of the new organization. Dues were set at two dollars annually and the next meeting was scheduled for August of 1887 in Nashville. Then everything fell apart once again. At this point it appears that formal association activities were suspended.

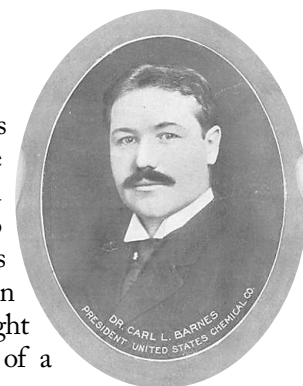
Everything seems to be dormant until the "embalming school" impulse started sweeping the country in the early part of the 20th century. On December 29, 1903 at a meeting in Nashville the first embalming educational experience was done.

Embalming schools at this time usually lasted a week or less. In Tennessee this was no exception.



Finley M. Dorris

The first embalming education was offered under the auspices of the National Casket Company and featured Professor Carl Lewis Barnes of Chicago as the embalming demonstrator. At this educational event the desire was again expressed by many that the time might well be right to re-visit the creation of a funeral directors association in Tennessee.



At this same December 29th meeting W. S. Cook of Nashville who had done some of the pioneer work in the formulation of a proposed embalmer licensing law announced to the assembly that there would be an association meeting the next day of all people interested in the re-organization of the Tennessee association.

On December 30, 1903 with Professor Carl Lewis Barnes as chairman *pro-tem*, and W. S. Cook as secretary, the meeting took place. A committee of five to draft a constitution and by-laws was appointed. After adopting the report of the committee the next day the name Tennessee Funeral Directors Association was selected and officers were elected to serve until June 14, 1904, the date chosen for the first annual meeting.

The following funeral directors were elected by the 87 charter members present and served the organization as its first official family: President was T. E. McReynolds of Clarksville; First Vice-President was Joseph Henry of Springfield; Second Vice-President was L.R. Jacobs of Murfreesboro; Secretary was W. S. Cook of Nashville, and Treasurer was Findley M. Dorris of Nashville.

At the time of this organization Tennessee had no laws governing either embalming or funeral directing. Through the untiring efforts of the association in its repeated rounds with the state legislature, an embalmer's law was passed by an act of the Fifty-sixth General Assembly of Tennessee on February 4, 1909, and was signed by Governor Malcolm R. Patterson of Memphis just five years after the reorganization of the group. By this act a State Board of Embalmers was created and established, its duties defined, and the compensation of its members fixed. The issuance of licenses to embalmers was legalized and the board was given the authority to impose penalties for the violation of the provisions of the act.

In 1916 the new name, the "Tennessee Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association" was adopted and in May, 1936 the association was incorporated under the name of "Tennessee Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, Inc."

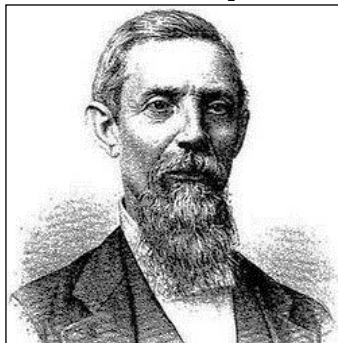
Tennessee has always been interested in anything which would improve the educational status of its members. Aside from the usual lecture on embalming given at the state meetings, in 1917 other types of demonstrations were tried as an experiment. Different members of the association gave demonstrations concerning the different and various religious and fraternal funeral rituals that were unique in the varied cultures and religions throughout the State of Tennessee.

In 1921 Tennessee decided to join with her neighbor states of Mississippi and Arkansas in a tristate meeting. These meetings proved extremely satisfactory to all involved and were scheduled to be held in every other year, providing the states retained their separate associational entities. The chief purpose of the tristate meetings was the scheduling of programs much better than any single state could have produced alone and the added benefits of the exchange of ideas between professionals of similar though different locations. In 1955 this approach to meeting and conventions attracted over 1200 persons to its united convention.

In 1951 the Tennessee Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association, Inc. was successful in encouraging the state legislature to pass a law governing the licensing of funeral directors, funeral directing, and funeral establishments and in February of that year the Tennessee State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers was established to take the place of the old State Board of Embalmers.

There have been 113 Presidents of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association.

The Tennessee Funeral Directors Association continues in its mission of leadership, innovation and creativity.



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HOW TO BE YOUR BEST TO SERVE AT YOUR BEST

By Matt Soderstrum

You have got to be kidding me! It seems that my head had just hit the pillow and my phone was ringing.

Another death.

Another sleepless night.

Another family to invest energy and care into while my own was neglected.

This had been an unusually busy season for our funeral home. While we typically handled 10-12 deaths a month, we were on our eighth death in five days. And now another one!

Two funerals tomorrow, a visitation starting at 4:00, a cremation permit to obtain, a pastor who wants to grab coffee sometime, a spouse who wonders when I will be home next (not just physically, but emotionally as well). And now another family to meet with to arrange another funeral...

It seemed my world was crashing around me.

As a funeral director, we have all had times like this – times where we are stretched too thin, times where we can't give 100% to the families we serve because frankly, we don't have any more to give.

What do we do? We suck it up and fight through. What else can we do? We suck it up and go through the motions. We try to care when we can't care anymore. We try to be patient. We try to "get through" and pray for a quiet week next week.

During times like this, these feelings of frustration are understandable.

The problem is, what happens when we have these feelings ALL the time. Feelings that we don't have any more to give, feelings that we are not doing our best, feelings that we are just going through the motion to get the job done. Feeling that death has interrupted our lives again!

Treating each death as if it is just a job – and not people whose lives have been changed forever.

Because, the truth is, every family we meet with has just been changed forever due to death. Yes, not every death is unexpected and sad, but every death is life changing.

Sadly, we can become so accustomed to

death, that we do not always acknowledge this. Sometimes for us as funeral professionals, each death is much like the one before, another person whose time has come to an end.

We must always keep in mind that this death is a big deal for this family.

Today, I am a LifePlan facilitator. When I facilitate an individual's LifePlan, one of the tools we work through is called "The Turning Point Profile". A "turning point" is an event, episode or opportunity that changes a person in some way either personally, within their family, vocationally or spiritually. Death always shows up on their "Turning Point Profile" – the death of a parent, grandparent, spouse, friend or God forbid a child.

It is always there.

Each family we work with, this death is a big deal. It will never be forgotten. Never.

So, what are we as funeral service professionals to do? How can we best help families through this time of pain and loss?

The answer is simple – and yet incredibly difficult: We must be our best!

We must be our best. To best serve our families, we must be at our best. There is a saying that says, "You can't give what you don't have". This is so true in the funeral profession. To serve families in the best possible way, we must be at our best.

How do we do this?

Be Proactive

We must be proactive in addressing this topic? What do you need to do to be at your best? What refuels you? What helps you perform at your peak?

Think about PIES (I love pie by the way)– Physically, Intellectually, Emotionally and Spiritually.

What do you need to be at your best physically? We all need some physical activity. Maybe it is walking 3-4 times a week. Maybe it is some more intense cardio work or strength training. Maybe you are into hot yoga, Zumba or some other fitness class. Identify this and write it down.

What do you need to do to be at your best intellectually? How are you keeping your brain working and engaging? The options here are endless – books, articles, podcasts, webinars, classes, seminars, websites ... I try to do a

crossword puzzle every day.

What about your emotional health? How are you processing your emotions? Funeral service is a high stress career. Are you dealing with things or just stuffing them – or medicating them with food, alcohol, drugs or pornography? Journaling can help. Don't stuff your emotions, you must deal with them! Find a person you can confide in – a friend, a counselor, a pastor, a coach.

How about spiritually? Are you going the direction you want to go in this regard? For me, a daily connection with God of some type is imperative. I have also found a yearly retreat to be helpful as well. What about you?

Be Protective

Once you have identified what you need to do, be proactive and DO IT! Put it on your calendar. Make it happen. If some time of solitude is necessary for you to be at your best, make a plan for this.

It just makes sense. If this activity makes you a better funeral director, spouse, parent, friend, person, coworker ... then do that activity! Be proactive.

Be Progressive

Have a plan to develop and grow – as a person, in your relationships, as a funeral director. This just won't happen. What is your plan?

What kind of funeral director do you want to be in 5 years? In 10 years? 25? Do you want to be one who just goes "through the motions" and treats each family and funeral as a "cookie cutter". Or, do you want to be the best you can be – an expert in the death care profession? Someone who has grown in your profession? Someone who has made a positive difference with the families you serve?

What kind of spouse do you want to be? What kind of parent/child? What kind of friend?

This is a key step in the LifePlan process, identifying what you want to look like and be in the future.

"Be your best"! Simple words, but oh so powerful! We owe it to ourselves, our spouses, our children and we owe it to the families we serve. We owe it to our profession.

Be your best.



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Tennessee Funeral Security, Inc. (TFSI), and the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association (TFDA) proudly announce the endorsement of Investors Heritage Life Insurance Company as the exclusive funeral insurance provider for our valued members in the great state of Tennessee.

TFSI President Jack Farrar stated "TFSI received a directive from the TFDA Board of Directors to create a financial plan to strengthen the Association's financial stability. In the tradition of recommending quality preneed insurance companies, and careful consideration of all interested preneed providers, TFSI is confident Investors Heritage Life Insurance Company is the most practical choice to assist in meeting our goals. Investors Heritage has supported our Association for many years and we couldn't be more comfortable with our decision."

TFDA President Steve Spann also added: "This is, in my humble opinion, a great decision and relationship for TFDA. Investors Heritage has been a dependable and longtime supporter of TFDA. They have attended meetings and exhibited at the state convention for the past two decades. Because of this history Investors Heritage seems like part of the family. I personally take great comfort in knowing that Investors Heritage is a family operated concern which was started by the father of the company President, Harry Lee Waterfield II, in Frankfort, Kentucky. I would be remiss if I also did not remind everyone that it was Investors Heritage that stepped up to the plate for us when the Franklin American Insurance Company failed in buying and servicing these policies. As a practicing funeral professional, having used Investors Heritage for almost three decades, I can say with all candor that I have found them to be an exceptionally good company, very easy to work with, and their communication is excellent: you can always get an answer to your question promptly and accurately. Then add to all of these benefits that Investors Heritage provides a wonderful incentive trip annually for funeral homes that reach a certain sales quota, and what more can you ask for? The service, the mission, the product, and the family oriented group activities are why I am so pleased with this endorsement. It is truly and win/win for both TFDA and Investors Heritage.

W. Jack Farrar
President, TFSI

B. Steven Spann
President, TFDA

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We are proud to receive the TFSI endorsement and look forward to a mutually beneficial relationship with TFSI and the members of TFDA. We are confident that our products and customer focused service will be of value to the TFDA, funeral homes of Tennessee and the families they serve.

My family and I have greatly enjoyed working with Steve and all the Tennessee funeral directors with whom we have long-standing and newly formed relationships. It is our hope that through this partnership with the TFDA, we will build many more.

Harry Lee Waterfield II
President, Investors Heritage Life Insurance Company

WE'RE CELEBRATING!

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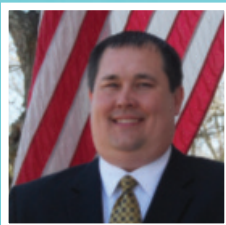
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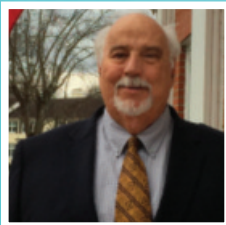
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Obituaries

MRS. STELLA GREER age 92, the mother of Garry Greer manager of McDonald Funeral Home in Centerville, died Saturday December 17, 2016

Stella Elizabeth Greer born February 16, 1924, passed away December 17, 2016. She is the daughter of the late William and Lydia Gallaway Adkins, she is also preceded in death by her husband, Erbie Greer. She is survived by; Daughter Wanda (Linwood) Jones, by Son Garry(Barbara) Greer, by Grandchildren; Michelle (Jack) Wright, Stephanie Pomaroy, Andrew (Rachel) Greer, and Amanda (Joseph) Seabrook; along with Great Grandchildren Brittany, Katelyn, Conner, Emma and Easton.

BILLY E. FORD (October 20, 1931 - December 14, 2016) Father of Donna Wilson, Funeral Director with Murphy Funeral Home and Florist, Martin, TN.



Mr. Billy E. Ford passed away on Wednesday, December 14, 2016, at Tennova Volunteer Hospital in Martin.

Mr. Ford was preceded in death by his wife, Alma Phillips Ford; his parents, Carlos Ford and Ruby Harris Ford, his sister, Helen Dean Waggener; one infant grandson, Billy Edward Ford.

Mr. Ford retired from the U.S. Army as Command Sgt. Major after serving his country for 28 years. He served in Korea and in Vietnam. Billy and Alma together worked as residence managers at the Governor's Executive Residence under Governor Ned Ray McWherter's administration and remained in that position for Governor Don Sundquist's administration. Billy was a member of First Baptist Church in Martin.

He is survived by his sons, Mark (Marcia) Ford of Paris, TN, Mike (Anne) Ford of Martin and Maury (Julie) Ford of Knoxville; his daughters, Donna Wilson and Kay Wright both of Martin; 12 grandchildren, Rick (Brandi) Wilson, Paul Ryne Wilson, Jennifer (Mike) Davis, Marcus Ford, Andy Ford, Madison, Reilley and James Michael Ford, II, Matthew, Anna, Elizabeth and Kate Ford; six great-grandchildren; his niece and great-nephew, Paula and Sammy Beverly of Martin.



LESTER FLOYD MCALISTER, of Ellisville, Mississippi, age 66, died December 25, 2016. Lester McAlister was the Co-owner of Ansercall, Inc. in Laurel, MS. Lester was a long time member of the Tennessee Funeral Supply Sales Club.

Lester Floyd McAlister passed away unexpectedly on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2016. Born on March 2, 1950 in Jackson to Guy H.

McAlister Sr. and Kizzie McAlister, Lester was known and admired by many for his outstanding accomplishments and lasting friendships that he formed through the years.

Lester attended Florence High School in Florence. After graduation in 1968, he attended Jones County Junior College where he was the 1970 Lair yearbook editor and was selected for the JC Hall of Fame his sophomore year. Lester continued his education at Ole Miss from 1971-72 and majored in business.

Lester loved the Ellisville-Laurel area and returned here after leaving Ole Miss and worked at the Nehi Bottling Company, then later worked for Laurel Oil Company before venturing into the telephone answering service. With his continued interest and goal-set mind, it prompted him into opening and co-owning his own telephone answering service, Ansercall, Inc.

With his outreach spirit, he was also very community oriented

and was active with the Red Cross Chapter in Laurel, serving as chapter chairman while Peggy Owens-Mansfield was the director of the Laurel office.

Lester had many hobbies, one of which was remodeling houses using carpentry skills he learned from his father who was known as a master carpenter. With any house or structure he acquired, he had a vision for what could be changed and improved. He was most proud of his latest home he purchased and completely restored in the historic district of Laurel. When this house was put on the market for sale, he had a vision for what could be changed and improved on the house and he saw that it was completely restored as planned while dealing with unexpected health issues. He had the skills, energy and determination to accomplish this major goal.

Many of his weekends were spent traveling with his friend Nell Shoemake to estate sales on the hunt for treasures and unusual pieces of antiques as he was an avid collector. Many hours were spent at auctions and antique stores searching for the perfect piece to be placed in his home.

Lester was a true friend to so many people. He kept communication lines opened at all times with old and new friends. He was always so thoughtful to keep in touch either by a personal visit, telephone call, text message or a thoughtful card. One of his goals was to "do something nice" for someone each day.

He enjoyed traveling and enjoyed talking about Laurel to anyone he met. He was especially proud of the re-beautification of Laurel and encouraging all to see and take pride in his city.

He was preceded in death by his parents Guy H. McAlister Sr. and Kizzie McAlister, and nephew Michael A. McAlister. Survivors include his brother Guy H. McAlister Jr. (Betty) of Vicksburg; niece Stephanie McElveen (Brian) of Magee; nephews Scott Wilson of Biloxi and Doug Wilson (Stephanie) of Vicksburg; great-niece Meagan Roberts (Cody) of Florence, MS; great-great-nephew Parker Roberts of Florence; great-niece Shelby Wilson of Vicksburg; great-nephews Blake Wilson of Vicksburg, MS and Dylan McAlister of Hernando; great-niece Alexis McAlister to Hernando; great-nephew Devin Millis of Mendenhall; special best friend Nell Shoemake of Laurel; and honorary granddaughter Alicia Gates of Long Beach.



WILLIAM THOMAS "W.T." PATTERSON, 78, of Camden, TN, passed away peacefully at his home on Monday, January 2, 2017. Funeral Services were scheduled at Plunk Funeral Home with Rev. Rebecca Luter and Rev. Kevin Conrad officiating. Burial followed at Benton Memory Gardens.

Mr. Patterson was born April 5, 1938, in Camden to the late Leslie and Kate Patterson. He graduated from Camden Central High in 1957 where he was an all-conference football player. He went on to graduate from John A. Gupton School of Mortuary Science in 1958. W.T. married Sammie (Ingram) Patterson on June 21, 1959. The couple was blessed with two daughters: Karla Wyatt and her husband Ken of Lebanon, TN, and Kathy Conrad and her husband Kevin of Milan, TN. The joy of his life was his two grandchildren, Joshua (Arwyn) Wyatt and April (Travis) Stacy all of Hendersonville, TN. He also cherished his step-grandchildren: Daniel and Chelsea Conrad.

Mr. Patterson served as a funeral director in Trenton and Dickson, TN, before becoming partners with Gordon Wheatley as

owners/operators of Stockdale-Malin Funeral Home in Camden and Big Sandy, TN. He was awarded the Fifty Year Service Award from the Tennessee funeral Directors Association along with the Legacy Award and a Lifetime Achievement Award. He served as a Director beginning in 1981, Secretary-Treasurer in 1982, Vice-President in 1983, and President in 1984. He also served on the State Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers from 2011 until 2015 and as a Vice-President in 2013. W.T. was a charter member of the Benton County Rescue Squad, served as Benton County Coroner, was a director for the Bank of Camden from 1990 until 2008 and Franklin American Insurance, and a member of the Camden Masonic Lodge # 179 and 32nd Degree Scottish Rite Mason. W.T. loved his community and served in various other ways as often as he could.

Mr. Patterson was a long time member of the First United Methodist Church of Camden where he served on various committees including the Building committee for the new sanctuary, Trustees, and Pastor-Staff Relations committee.

Mr. Patterson spent cherished time with his brothers and sisters: George W. (Mae) Patterson and Myrna (Larry) Pickler of Camden, TN; Harley (Susan) Patterson of Ripley, TN; Cooper (Kay) Patterson of Germantown, TN; Brenda (George) Deaton and Linda (Kenny) Dowdy of Big Sandy, TN; and Steve (Lindsey) Patterson of Jackson, TN.



MRS. BETTY BRIDGES DEDMON, age 85 was called to her heavenly home on January 4, 2017. Betty was born in Grand Rivers, Kentucky on June 20, 1931 to Lisha Larue and Sally Ruth Nickell Bridges who precede her in death. She later moved with her family to Chicago Illinois when her father got transferred with Illinois Central Railroad after World War II. She was employed with a law firm as a receptionist. She met her husband Billy Gene Dedmon, at Calvary Baptist Church in Illinois while he was visiting his sister. They married on December 2, 1950. They were married for 39 years before his passing in 1990. She began working at Haywood County Hospital as Medical Records Clerk where she worked with different hospital corporations for a total of 36 years before retiring as Medical Records Department Head. Betty was the recipient of the Dr. Frist Humanitarian Award while working for Hospital Corporation of America. Betty loved her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, her family, her church, her friends and her grand dogs. She had been a faithful member of Allen Baptist Church since 1950. She was preceded in death by her husband: Billy Gene Dedmon, her brother and sister in law: Gene and Sue Bridges, a sister: Ruth Evelyn Bridges. Those left to cherish her memory are three daughters: Linda D. Moir, (Rev. Dr. Alex Moir) Windsor, Ont., Canada, Diane D. Presley, (Mike) Barbara D. Flores, (David) both of Brownsville, TN, two grandsons: Dr. Zachary Moir, Tyler Moir (Tamerra), two great-grandsons: Mace and William Moir, a sister: Beverly Moore (Charlie) and several very special nieces and nephews. Three wonderful caregivers: Latonja Booker, Etta Seymore and Eva Wood. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to: Allen Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, 142 Chestnut Dr., Brownsville, TN 38012.



Ms. Betty is the mother of Barbara Dedmon Flores, a funeral Director with Lea & Simmons Funeral Home.

TIMOTHY WHITWELL JONES age 66 died Saturday January 14, 2017 at his residence in Trenton, Tennessee. He was the

son late Thomas Huton and Annie Loudean Whitwell Jones. Tim was a graduate of Peabody High School in Trenton and a member of the Union United Methodist Church. He was a 1970 graduate of John A Gupton College in Nashville, Tennessee and spent a large part of his career at Treadway-Norris Funeral Home in Memphis, Tennessee. He later joined the University of Tennessee there in Memphis and was the Director of the Anatomical Bequest Program until his retirement. Afterwards, he moved to California for several years and then moved back to his hometown of Trenton for a short while. In 2010, Tim came out of retirement and became a consultant and in 2012 moved to Spring City to join the staff of Vaughn Funeral Home with his longtime friend Donna K. Vaughn. His health forced him to retire again a year and a half later and he moved back to Trenton to be close to his family. A master embalmer, Tim still remained on the staff of Vaughn Funeral Home as a consultant until his untimely death.

A talented and unique individual, Tim was known all over the country not only as a funeral director and embalmer, but also as an accomplished pianist. He traveled with a gospel quartet for several years.

Survivors include his sister Sue Jones Doolin of Trenton, Tennessee and his niece Penni (Mark) Cannady also of Trenton.

A Memorial Donation has been made to the TFDA Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of Mr. Wayne Justice by Mr. Jerry Griffey, Knoxville, TN

A Memorial Donation has been made to the TFDA Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of Mr. W.T. Patterson by Mr. Jerry Griffey, Knoxville, TN

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TFSI/TFDA constantly strive for ways to assist association members with questions to the ever-changing funeral profession. And, what funeral professional does not struggle with the uncertainty of today's funeral situation? We want the association members to know there are solutions to these issues.

By partnering with Matthews – Aurora Funeral Solutions, association members will benefit from over one hundred and fifty years of international funeral knowledge and proficiency. Members will also gain advanced knowledge from the some of the world's leading speakers resulting from this agreement regarding TFDA sponsored educational functions and electronic media. Along with the education and competence TFDA members continue to benefit from the unrivaled excellence of quality and superior craftsmanship provided by Matthews-Aurora products.

TFSI/TFDA could not be more pleased with our agreement with Matthews – Aurora Funeral Solutions. We urge all interested TFDA members to ask your Matthews-Aurora Funeral Solutions account executive how these advantages can best provide solutions to your distinctive and ever-changing professional service requirements.

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NFDA IN D.C.: WORKING HARD TO IMPROVE VETERANS' FUNERAL AND BURIAL BENEFITS



Chris Christian, NFDA Policy Board Representative

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The 115th Congress has begun in earnest with a flurry of activity, and your NFDA Advocacy staff are on the Hill working for introduction of legislation of importance to funeral service. Now that the dust has settled after the Presidential election and the last minute frenzy of activity in the 114th Congress, it's time to review some of the good things that happened regarding veterans' funeral and burial issues that impact funeral service.

On December 14, 2016 President Obama signed the **Charles Duncan Buried with Honor Act of 2016** into law [Public Law No: 114-273]. This bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), if it is unable to identify a deceased veteran's next of kin, and if it determines that sufficient resources for the furnishing of a casket or urn for the burial of such veteran are not otherwise available, to furnish a casket or urn for the burial of such a veteran in a national cemetery (current law) or in a veterans cemetery of a state or tribal organization for which the VA has provided a grant for the establishment, expansion, and improvement of veterans' cemeteries.

As always, NFDA will actively monitor legislation in Congress that may impact funeral service, and will ensure your

voice is heard on Capitol Hill. We are also working with the new Trump administration to make improvements to veterans funeral and burial benefits.

Here are a some of the dates of events and seminars that NFDA is offering in 2017; Cremation Retreat at Emory Conference Center in Atlanta (March 15-16), Advocacy Summit in D.C. (April 26-28), Leadership Conference in Coeur d'Alene, ID (July 16-19), and the International Convention and Expo in Boston, MA. (Oct. 29- Nov. 1).

Thank you
Chris E. Christian

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March 27, 2017 - EAST DISTRICT MEETING
Smith Event Center, Maryville, TN

March 28, 2017 - MIDDLE DISTRICT MEETING **NEW LOCATION!**
Wilson County Expo Center, Lebanon, TN

March 30, 2017 - WEST DISTRICT MEETING
Jackson Country Club, Jackson, TN

June 4-6, 2017 - TFDA/TFSSC 114th ANNUAL CONVENTION
Embassy Suites Hotel, Murfreesboro, TN

2017 TFDA SPRING DISTRICT MEETINGS

1616 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203
Phone 615-321-8792 Email office@tnfda.org
(Pending TN State Board approval of 2 CEU's)

REGISTRATION: \$30.00 PER PERSON (includes dinner)

EAST DISTRICT - MARCH 27, 2017

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM – Seminar presented by Todd Van Beck
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM – District Meeting presented by Vital Records
Smith Event Center, Maryville, TN

MIDDLE DISTRICT - MARCH 28, 2017

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM – Seminar presented by Todd Van Beck
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM – District Meeting presented by Vital Records
Wilson County Expo Center, Lebanon, TN

WEST DISTRICT - MARCH 30, 2017

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM – Seminar presented by Todd Van Beck
6:30 PM – 8:30 PM – District Meeting presented by Vital Records
Jackson Country Club, Jackson, TN

TFDA DISTRICT MEETING SEMINAR

TITLE: "BUT, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT!"

DESCRIPTION:

This educational seminar is dedicated to exploring the challenges of orienting new people your firm has just hired who are unlicensed and know nothing about the funeral service profession.

Clearly the language and world of our profession is not routine or easy to grasp, and because of this difficulty (that we have all experienced) having a quick easy orientation program to instruct unlicensed people who work in your funeral home is time well spent,

and it helps avoid mistakes.

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OUTLINE:

The state of teaching funeral literacy to lay people.

Unavoidable mistakes on funerals.

Avoidable mistakes on funeral.

Case Study: "But, I didn't know!"

What price do mistakes actually cost any funeral home financially?

The "Big Five" areas of funeral literacy.

Language that makes a difference.

How to teach funeral literacy.

The Funeral Literacy Program for Funeral Homes.

INSTRUCTOR:

Todd W. Van Beck,
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DISTRICT MEETING PROGRAM

Vital Records – Filing Death Certificates online.

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