

THE THANA GRAM

WINTER • 2017

Official Publication of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

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175TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

BRAD RIDGEWAY, PRESIDENT • TFDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS



TFDA Friends,

I began writing this letter over a week ago, and just like any of you, I have been pulled away many times in many different directions to help serve a family in need or take a phone call to listen to someone who just needs an ear, or to help solve a problem big or small. That is the wonderful thing about Funeral Service. We are all called to serve in the same way and we always respond. I just stand in amazement of our friends at Austin & Bell Funeral Home who have been called to serve the Robertson County community for 175 years. Congratulations to The Austin & Bell Funeral Home family and Staff for this milestone. May we all strive to follow their example and serve our communities with first class dignity for years to come.

Electronic Death Certificates..... Relax, don't get upset at me. This is a huge change and there are kinks to work out. We are all going to be ok, I promise. Just be patient. I have had the opportunity to be on multiple video and conference calls with David Murphy from the TFDA Governmental Affairs Committee, Bob Batson, as well as many different people from TN Vital records. We have voiced your concerns and problems to them and will continue to, as we are communicating regularly. I assure you, they are working overtime to keep up with demand. They are entering user agreements for funeral homes and doctors as fast as possible. They are also entering the Drop to Paper death certificates as fast as they can so you are able to get certified copies in a timely manner. Please continue to call the VRISM help line at 1-855-874-7686 or email amber.hendrix@tn.gov with your questions and problems.

Well, in the two paragraphs above we have covered the longevity of service of Austin & Bell and the progression of TN funeral Service into the days Electronic Death Certificates. What a broad range of subjects. But the common factor in all of this is you, the funeral director. You are always there to serve a family in need while at the same time trying to keep up with the progression of funeral service in our fine state. Thank you, to each of you, for all you do for the families in your communities. As we all have been witness to the tragedy in Las Vegas, I'm thankful for my TFDA family more than ever. We are a team of servants who lean on each other, encourage each other, challenge one another, and at the end of the day, we serve together.

Please continue to pray for the victims in Nevada who are recovering, the families who lost loved ones, and our fellow funeral directors who are serving those families all across our great country. May God give them guidance, and strength to serve. God Bless the USA.

Sincerely,
Bradley W. Ridgeway

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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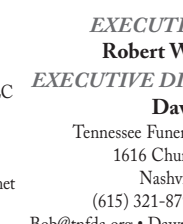
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THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR AND THEIR OWN FUNERAL (WHEN THEY DON'T HAVE ONE)

By Todd Van Beck

I remember when I was in Mortuary College in Boston we took a field trip and visited a vault manufacturing plant in a town a little north of Boston. I was quite excited about the adventure mostly because I had never seen a vault made before, and I was terribly interested in literally anything to do with funeral service. I am still terribly interested in anything to do with funeral service but honestly my fascination with vault manufacturing left me some years past.

When the bus arrived at the vault plant an extremely distinguished looking gentleman greeted us. I was immediately struck by his grand style of appearance, impeccable dress, gray hair, black horn rimmed glasses, tall, stately, dignified – everything that the prototype funeral director possessed (back then) and all the attributes which I dearly wanted to acquire in my own person. However I was just tall, that was it, and other than being tall I in no way resembled this extremely dignified and professional looking man.

He graciously gave us the grand tour of the vault plant. He spoke in flowing eloquent inspirational terms about his great love of the funeral service profession. He told story after story about his great career, about this family and that family he had served and how much of an honor and privilege it was to serve the bereaved. He spoke in glowing terms about the importance of ethical care of the dead, the value of embalming, the benefits of the funeral rituals to the bereaved and how he himself had been so blessed and fortunate to be a member of the funeral service profession. All I could think was “Hot damn, I want to be just like him when I grow up!”

I remember getting on the bus for the trip back to Boston and I felt like I was floating on a cloud. I needed a lift in spirit! Even as a baby undertaker in those early years I had contended with the naysayers concerning funeral service. I mean after reading Mitford’s *“American Way of Death”* (which literally brought me to tears), after reading all the negative press about the alleged graft and corruption in funeral service, after confronting all the “negatives” about this profession which I loved so much, at last, at long last here was a man who had conviction, focus, belief and most important here was a man who had a mission in life and that was his career in funeral service. He loved funeral service and by God he stood up and expressed his beliefs and convictions seemingly, I thought, to anybody who would listen. I was tremendously impressed and awed to say the very least – he was a great role model, or so I thought at the time.

It was not three months later after the great inspirational tour that we received the news at the College that this funeral director had died suddenly without warning. He collapsed in his office and was dead when he hit the floor. I was stunned and thought to myself what a grievous loss his death was to the entire funeral service profession. All the students who

had been on the field trip were visibly affected, shocked and grieving. We as a class decided that when the arrangements for this funeral director’s visitation, funeral and disposition services were announced we would make arrangements to attend as a class representing the Mortuary College. We asked the secretary of the College to let us know as soon as she received any news concerning the arrangements.

The final class for the day was just finishing when the secretary came into the classroom and asked Dr. Jackson if she could make an announcement concerning the arrangements for this deceased funeral director. Here is what she said: “There will be no calling hours, there will be no funeral services at all, and the remains will be immediately cremated and the cremains would be disposed of privately at a later unknown date.”

We were stunned! Our group shock turned to anger and several students expressed their anger by making some fairly strong comments concerning the glaring hypocrisy of this funeral director. Had he not made mention in glowing and flowing words about the wonderful opportunities which waited for us in professionally helping families “through the valley of the shadow of death”? Had he not gone on and

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on with inspirational words concerning how important the funeral experience was to the entire community – and did he not emphasize that the funeral was NOT JUST VALUABLE FOR THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY BUT FOR EVERYBODY? As baby funeral director's we were stunned, angered, disappointed, and frankly hurt by the phoniness and contradictions concerning what this funeral director said as compared now to what he did. It then got worse because the story floated around the College that the "no funeral" decision had been preplanned by the deceased funeral director himself! I remember, at the time, feeling guilty in speaking of the dead in such harsh terms but honestly even back then I knew that something was not right here – this was not fair – something was missing – something was terribly wrong. It was not a good experience, it left an empty feeling in my gut and a sour taste in my mouth, and I have never forgotten it.

Fast forward 40 plus years – Dateline 2015.

Recently I was traveling out of the country doing a series of seminars for Hospice, Victims Assistance Program, and some funeral home management staff training. On the last evening of my visit I had a wonderful dinner with the funeral director who had been my gracious host and a gentleman who has been a good cherished friend of mine for many years in funeral service. When three or four funeral directors get together at a dinner and cocktails what is the conversation going to be about? Funerals of course! I have at times looked at the poor people who are not involved in funeral service and who attend one of these funeral director dinners and just set there in basic silence for hour upon hour while we, funeral insiders piddle the night away with funeral and/or ambulance stories one after another. I have sometimes thought that the polite thing to do would be to change the conversation in order to kindly include the funeral outsiders – but then I think to myself "Nay" and I dive right back into the deep end of the pool telling one funeral/ambulance story after another. It is great fun and I never ever get bored!

At this dinner however one of the funeral directors relayed an incidence where a funeral director in the area had recently died and there was no funeral, no calling hours, and the remains were immediately disposed of. We then all pro-

ceeded to remember another, and another, and yet another funeral director who upon their own deaths had no funeral, no calling hours, and the remains were immediately disposed of. My memory flew back to Boston way these many years ago, and I shared that experience, and then we all started remembering the death of this colleague or that one which also fell into the category of "nothing" concerning the use of the rites and ritual of the funeral. Finally one of the directors at the dinner poised these simple questions, "How could that happen?" "How can a funeral director when they die have no funeral?" Finally the biggest question of all was put on the table, "Where is the conviction?"

At this dinner the suggestion was made that I tackle this sensitive subject and write an article. I accepted the suggestion and so here goes. However before I get into the DNA of the thoughts I would like to share I want to say straight away that I firmly believe in freedom of choice; however I also firmly believe that when it comes to the issue of a deceased funeral director having no funeral the ideal of freedom of choice must come under scrutiny by other funeral professionals, so let's scrutinize; it's only fair.

In a time in funeral service where honored rites, rituals and ceremonies seem fragile and teetering here and there this is not the time for funeral directors to "move in" with the impersonal, sterile, tide of events and adopt and accept rejection of death rituals, or concur with funeral critics, or worse abandon the time honored beliefs, convictions, and professional heritage that set the basic foundations for the funeral service profession and our cherished careers in the first place.

As I have aged, as life has kicked and picked at me, as I left innocence behind and faced the rigors of adulthood I have learned a hard and difficult lesson. ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS. I have also learned that in funeral service if the funeral director does not stand up and act on behalf of the values and benefits of the funeral – WHO WILL?

In a time when cynicism, criticism, individualism, and a bunch of other "isms" seem to have taken on a life of their own the need for belief in something bigger than ourselves, unselfish service to others, and a firm personal and professional conviction about life, and one's mission of action in life and vocation is more magnified today than ever before.

So how can it be that a funeral professional who talks about the values and benefits of the funeral experience throughout a lifelong career rejects those same values and benefits when it is their own death that is the focus?

Several years ago I was engaged in debating a well know critic of the funeral profession. The meeting was to take place in a large city on the West coast, and I arrived well prepared for the confrontation and frankly was looking forward in a big way at the opportunity to act upon my professional beliefs and basically "blast" away at this anti-funeral person. Right before the session was to begin this funeral critic leaned over to me and asked me this question: "Do you know what the biggest problem is in funeral service today?" "No"

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I answered (already provoked.) “I will tell you, funeral directors stop believing in what they are doing and when that happens it opens up the door for people like me.”

During the years of my career I have been blessed to work with and for funeral directors who truly believed in the mission of funeral service and made no bones about sharing their beliefs and convictions, and more importantly upon their own death’s they had these beliefs and convictions exercised through the wise use of rites, rituals and ceremonies. They not only spoke about their convictions they acted on them. All these funeral directors when they died (sounds awfully simple does it not?) **HAD A FUNERAL!** They acted on their convictions.

Can it be that certain funeral directors choose not to have a funeral for themselves because they are burned out, frustrated and really in their heart of hearts disliked the funeral profession in their lifetime? Could this no funeral decision on the part of some funeral directors really be a protest as if to say “See I finally get to express my true honest feelings about funerals having been stuck in this career for X amount of years – and I hated it – hated every minute of it!” This is a harsh rough thought but could this be a possibility?

Common sense really reduces the issue we are exploring to some simple observations. Funeral directors who choose to have no funeral for themselves when they die is like a dentist who has terrible teeth and refuses treatment, or a physician who refuses to get a physical, or a teacher who hates teaching, or a clergyperson who hates doing worship services. Something unhealthy, disturbing and damaging is present when professional people turn on their own careers, stay in the career, and display their true feelings at the end of their life and career in such a visible and blatant manner.

So what about that big glaring issue of freedom of choice? Certainly in the end freedom of choice must and will prevail, but in the instance of funeral directors rejecting the value of their own profession, well this attitude carries a heavy cost.

I truly believe that when a funeral director rejects the values and benefits of the funeral for themselves they have that right, but I also as a longtime member of the funeral profession know that I also have the individual right and obligation to stand up and challenge the correctness of exercising that type of freedom of choice. Why do I have that right? Easy...I love the funeral profession. When a funeral director upon his or her own death rejects the merits of the very ceremony he or she promised to dedicate themselves to when they took the Oath upon graduating from Mortuary College they succeed in this type of funeral rejection to mock, yes mock, the very career which furnished their income, furnished their reputations, and basically furnished a major part of their lives. However the worse offense when the funeral director has no funeral when they die is this: by making the no funeral decision they unwittingly make professional life much more difficult for the rest of us who are still laboring in the vineyard of funeral service and who have the spark and mission devoted to an authentic love of the funeral profes-

sion. **A dead funeral director who has no funeral is truly an oxymoron.**

My entire career I have seen nothing that the public likes more than a professional person with firm beliefs, firm convictions, and the ability to implement those beliefs and convictions in their daily actions. Conversely all my career I have seen nothing that the public dislikes and is more cynical of and suspicious of than a “professional” person with no beliefs, who bends with the wind, has no convictions, and publicly “talks the talk” but privately does not believe what they themselves have said.

Funeral directors should have public funeral ceremonies when they die – there I said it. The content and scope of the ceremony can take on any form meaningful to the survivors, both family and community, however the funeral needs to be given a chance to breathe, is needs to be visible, it needs to be inclusive not exclusive.

Winston Churchill summed up a profession this way: *“A profession is where a group has taken its stock and trade of all their activities to the direction of helping the human need to solve problems.*

The solution to these problems comes from the mentor, apprentice experience, from the careful, scholarly, objective, truthful and passionate systems of ethics and philosophy which says ‘What we do is good!’

Is it possible when a deceased funeral director chooses to have no funeral the message to the world is “What we do is



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NOT good,” or “What we do is good for the rest of you, but not for me or my family?”

Think for a moment about a career in this great and wonderful profession. We all should have the same sense of identity because most in funeral service have had a life-long identity and involvements in many of the most traumatic and dramatic events of the entire community. Funeral service has had a well recognizable, well announced set of values as to how we conduct our professional affairs, and one of the recognizable and announced values is this: **FUNERALS ARE GOOD** – for funeral directors too!. Examine for a moment the time and energy that it took all of us in funeral service to learn the language, the arts and sciences of mortuary activities, look at the system of licensure, certification and discipline which we must adhere. Take a long look at the future of funeral service and the values and benefits which you and I are required to pass on to the future funeral professions and what is the central core value of funeral service that we are all morally responsible to communicate far and wide? **FUNERALS ARE GOOD!**

For the young funeral director and the veteran funeral director, for the clergy, the community, and anybody who will listen to the gentle persistent communication and action of all funeral professionals concerning an authentic belief, conviction, and dedication to our beloved profession centers ultimately on this one core value: **FUNERALS ARE GOOD – FOR EVERYBODY.**

TFDA Birth Announcements

Avery Bradford Lea was born at 10:19 am, Friday, October 13, 2017 to Jody & Jeanna Lea of Lea & Simmons in Brownsville, TN. Avery weighed 5 lbs 15 oz. and was 19¼ inches long. She was welcomed by her two big brothers, J.T. & Miller. Mom and baby are great.



Garrett Brooks Jeffers, 7 pounds 8 ounces, born 3:01 PM on October 5th at Holston Valley Hospital in Kingsport



CONTINUING EDUCATION ON-LINE

John A. Gupton College has developed online continuing education courses. These courses have been approved for CEU hours by both Tennessee and Kentucky Boards. The online subjects range from funeral service history, embalming techniques, funeral home management, grief psychology and bereavement counseling. **For information concerning cost and program call 615-327-3927, go to our website at guptoncollege.edu or email admissions@guptoncollege.edu.**



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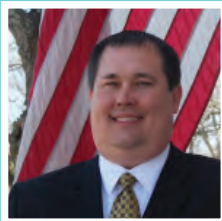
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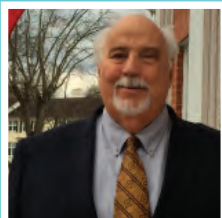
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Austin & Bell Funeral Home 175th Celebration



Humble Beginnings

The History of Tennessee's Oldest Funeral Home Establishment. Before the first postage stamp came into being or the first locomotive whistle was heard in Robertson County; Marion Henry had started a company that would remain a family business for 150 years- making it the oldest family funeral home in the state of Tennessee.

Marion Henry was a cabinet maker by trade. In those days the cabinet shops also made caskets and buried the dead. Henry's shop opened in 1842 in Turnersville, a small community in western Robertson County that was a trade center on the stage coach line from Nashville to Hopkinsville, KY.



TFDA Executive Director, Bob Batson, came to the celebration to congratulate Bob Bell on this unprecedented achievement in the funeral industry.



Senator Kerry Roberts (Far left) and State Representative Sabi (Doc) Kumar (far right) present Bob Bell a Senate Joint Resolution.



Randy Short standing beside an 1878 Horse drawn hearse on loan to us from Bob and Jim Cortner, Moore-Cortner Funeral Home.



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Danny Hurt with Wilbert Vault Co provided this gorgeous carapace for our selection room showing the history of Austin & Bell.



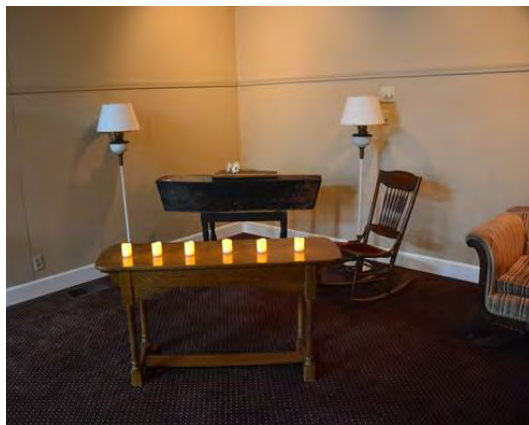
Guests learning about the history and legend of the Bell Witch.



Bell Witch author and historian, Tim Henson, had an incredible display about the Legend of the Bell Witch including videos and artifacts.



Celebration included lots of refreshments.



A display with an original coffin made at the Turnersville cabinet maker from 1850's.



Refreshments



Bob Bell and family



Tennessee Donor Services was on hand to answer questions about becoming an organ or tissue donor.



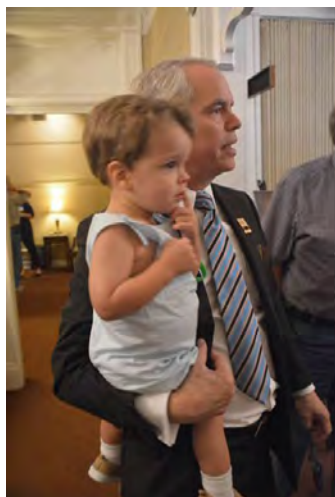
Several vehicles were graciously loaned to us for the celebration from McReynolds Nave & Larson Funeral Home and Moore-Cortner Funeral Homes



Batesville Casket Company provided a replica of President Lincoln's casket.



Entrance of Funeral Home. Portrait of Carney Bell on the right.



Owner Bob Bell holding the next Austin & Bell owner, grandson Henry Bell.



Todd Van Beck gave two fascinating programs about Lincoln's funeral.



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Obituaries



Father and father in-law of Judy and Bob Arrington, Arrington Funeral Directors, Jackson, TN

KENNETH LEATHERS, 89, died Sunday evening August 27, 2017 at Northbrooke Healthcare.

He was born in Toone, TN, June 12, 1928 the son of the late George and Anna Bell Essary Leathers. He graduated from Mercer High School. Kenneth was an electrical contractor working with Townsend Hardware Company, then managed Stuart C. Irby Company. After retiring from Stuart C. Irby, he worked with Smith Electric Company. He spent many years in the National Guard. He was a Trustee at Union University for 12 years. He served as chairman of the building committee of the girls dorm under the direction of President Robert Craig. His real true love was his church. West Jackson Baptist Church was a passion and a calling. He served in almost every capacity of the church including Chairman of the Deacons, Pastors Search Committee, and was Awarded a Life Deacon several years ago.

Kenneth is survived by his wife Dorothy Sullivan Leathers of Jackson, TN, one son Kenny Leathers, and wife Melissa of Mason, OH, two daughters, Judy Arrington and husband Bob, of Jackson, TN, Janet Leathers of Jackson, TN, three grandchildren, Will, Kate and Scott Leathers.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers that memorial donations be directed to West Jackson Baptist Church, 580 Oli Well Rd, Jackson, TN 38305

Arrington Funeral Directors, 148 W. University Parkway, Jackson, TN 38305. 731.668.1111 - www.arringtonfuneralgroup.com.

MRS. LAURA MARIE HAYES the wife of longtime Hunt Funeral Home and now Shelton-Hunt Funeral Home in Humboldt employee, Willard Hayes. Mr. Hayes has been employed with the funeral home since 1949.

Mrs. Hayes a member of Emmanuel Baptist Church and a retired child care provider, passed away on Monday September 11, 2017 at Bailey Park Community Living Center in Humboldt, TN.

Mrs. Hayes is preceded in death by her parents James and Maudie Lee (Blackwell) Stanford, two sisters Gurtie Kendrick and Georgia Stubblefield; and four brothers Clarence Stubblefield, J.D. Stubblefield, James Stanford and Junior Stanford.

Mrs. Hayes is survived by; her husband Willard Hayes of Humboldt, TN; a daughter Jennifer (Jim) Brandon of Medina, TN; a son Robert Willard (Vicki) Hayes of Humboldt, TN; four grandchildren Jeana (John) Turnbow, Trey (Ashley) Hayes, Meghan Dorrough, and Caleb Brandon; and four great grandchildren Will, Matthew, Sadie, and Paxton.

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Mrs. Claire Ayers Teasley, mother of Chadwick Ayers Haynes "Chad" and George William Haynes III "Chip", co-owners of Jennings & Ayers Funeral Home, Edwin F. Ayers Jr, Vice President, Donald "Donnie" Ayers, President, Jennings & Ayers Funeral Home, Aunt to Edwina Ayers and Donnie Ayers, Jr., all licensed funeral directors and embalmers of Jennings & Ayers Funeral Home in Murfreesboro, TN.



ELEANOR CLAIRE AYERS TEASLEY, age 75 passed away on September 10, 2017. She was a native and lifelong resident of Murfreesboro as well as a lifelong member of The First United Methodist Church. Eleanor attended Middle Tennessee State College Training School (Campus School) and Murfreesboro Central High School. She graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in Education. While attending UT, she was a member of the Alpha Omicron Pi Sorority.

She taught elementary school in the Murfreesboro City School System for 17 years and was active in many community endeavors. She served on the board of the Woman's Club, Oakland's Historical Association, Ambassadors for Middle Tennessee Medical Center Development Foundation, MTSU Foundation Board of Trustees as well as being a past president of the Charity Circle of Murfreesboro. She was a member of the First United Methodist Women's Association, United Givers Fund, The Blue Raider Athletic Association, and the Stones River Country Club.

Eleanor and her husband Charlie were avid MTSU fans and rarely missed games. Eleanor enjoyed traveling, playing cards, being with friends and family, especially her grandchildren and attending her grandchildren's activities.

Eleanor Claire was preceded in death by her parents, Blanche Elizabeth Knight Ayers and Edwin F. Ayers Sr. She is survived by her loving husband of 30 years, Charlie Lee Teasley; sons, George William Haynes III "Chip" and wife Cindy, Chadwick Ayers Haynes "Chad" and wife Rachel; brothers, Edwin F. Ayers Jr (Marsha) and Donald Knight Ayers (Dian); granddaughters, Evelyn Claire Haynes, Carlie Faye Haynes, Hannah Grace Haynes, and Ellie Christian Haynes; step-daughters, Cheri Lynne Turner (Mike), Emily Christine Teasley (Carlton), Angelyn Noell Teasley, and Bettie Suzanne Teasley; nieces, Jessica Edwina Ayers and Amy Elizabeth Ayers; nephew Donny Ayers (Betsey) and son, Levi; step-granddaughters, Lillian Austin Howell and Samantha Page Sulmers; step-grandsons, Michael Turner (Danielle) and son, Evan, Grant Turner and Drew Turner.

Memorials may be made to The First United Methodist Church, Charity Circle of Murfreesboro, The Woman's Club or Alive Hospice. The family wishes to thank Dr. John Zubkus for his loving care while Eleanor was sick.

Please leave online condolences at www.jenningsandayers.com Jennings and Ayers is in charge of arrangements. Jennings and Ayers Funeral Home, 820 S. Church Street, Murfreesboro, TN 37130. 615-893-2422.

Linda Barham, mother and mother-in-law of Janeen and Jeffery Blackburn. Linda Barham has been employed with Dyersburg Funeral Home, Dyersburg, TN for many years.



JEFFERY LEE BLACKBURN, 47, and **JANEEN PAIGE PARRISH BLACKBURN**, 41, of Dyersburg, TN, passed away on Friday, September 22, 2017 in Bells, TN.

Jeff was born on May 5, 1970 in Dyersburg, TN, to Lee Blackburn and Linda Winters Barham. He was a 1990 graduate of Dyer County High School and was also a member of Finley Baptist Church. Jeff loved fishing and was a U.T. Vols Football Fan. Janeen was born on October 20, 1975 in Obion County, TN, to the late Calvin William Parrish and the late Barbara Ann Markham Parrish. She was a 1993 graduate of Obion County High School and was also a member of Finley Baptist Church. Janeen was U.T. Vols Football Fan.

Survivors for Jeff include his twin daughters, Tiffany Lee Blackburn and Tabitha Sue Blackburn, both of Finley; his mother and step-father, Linda and Stoye Barham of Finley; his father and step-mother, Lee and Patricia Blackburn; two sisters, Gina Bernard and husband, Mike, of Caruthersville, MO and Megan Blackburn of Dyersburg; and a step-brother, Tony Barham.

Survivors for Janeen include her twin daughters, Tiffany Lee Blackburn and Tabitha Sue Blackburn; her special friends, Katrina Sollis, Victoria Annabelle Armstrong, Erika Reign Armstrong and Darron Bradley Armstrong; and several aunts and cousins.

The families requests that memorials be directed to the memorial fund at Finley Baptist Church.

Condolences may be left at: www.dyersburgfuneralhome.net (Arrangements by Dyersburg Funeral Home, 420 Hwy 51 Bypass West, Dyersburg, TN 38024, 731-285-3021)



Louie George Aregis, Sr., age 78 (1938 - Oct 10, 2017)

Louie was a longtime employee of Music City Mortuary.

Survived by Son and Daughter-in-law, Louie and Megan Aregis Jr. Fiancé Earlene Huff. Brother Danny Aregis. Sisters Anna Smith, Bella Bewley, Jean Colby and Simone Mitchell. Celebration of life

was held at Hermitage Funeral Home with Bro Brock Benton officiating. Interment was at Hermitage Memorial Gardens.

A donation has been made to the TFDA Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of Mr. Kenneth Leathers by Homesteaders Life Company, Des Moines, LA

A donation has been made to the TFDA Memorial Scholarship Fund in memory of Mr. Gerald "Doug" Fitz-Gerald by Ansercall, Inc., Laurel, MS

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WELCOME ANDI POINER



I am extremely pleased to welcome Andi Poiner to Tennessee Donor Services (TDS). Andi will be working to strengthen the relationship with funeral directors, and to support educational and training programs to ensure our continued progress.

Andi has been a licensed funeral director & embalmer since her graduation from John A. Gupton in 1999. After graduation, she continued her Army career and retired as a First Sergeant in May 2013 with 20 years of active service. She is currently the John A. Gupton Alumni President.

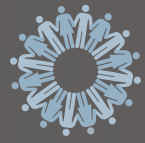
Andi is passionate about merging her devotion to the funeral industry with the awareness of organ and tissue donation.

Please join me in welcoming her.

– Bob Arrington
TDS Advisory Board Member



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