

# THE THANA GRAM

Christmas 2019

Official Publication of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

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## President's Message

Randy Nash • TFDA Board of Directors



If you're reading this, it means we are already in the middle of the busy holiday season! It is hard to believe how quickly 2019 has flown by and in a few weeks a new year will begin.

I am so thankful for many things this holiday season; a healthy family, great friends and colleagues to name a few, but I'm also thankful that I am a funeral director. We get to know people during one of the worst times in their life, but what an honor it is to be the calm in the storm, the shoulder to cry on, and to make a difference in someone's life. As I know some of you will undoubtedly be called away from meals or celebrations this season, I'm thankful for all of you and for what you mean to the families and communities that you serve.

Our TFDA board and Government Affairs Committee have been hard at work preparing exciting legislation for the upcoming year that we truly believe will benefit our members, our profession, and the families we serve. Also, be on the lookout for some exciting new regarding our 2020 TFDA/TFSSC Annual Convention; we have a lot of fun in store!

As always, without our members none of what we do as the TFDA would be possible, so we truly thank you. From my family to yours, Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas from Randy, Ashlee, Anna Jayne, and Rand Nash.

**Our Mission:**

To be the Tennessee Funeral Professional 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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# Stuck at Work on the Holidays? Your Survival Guide

by  
**LYNZE WARDLE LENIO**



A few years ago, I was gearing up for what I was sure would be The. Worst. Christmas. Ever. I was an intern at a small daily newspaper and had been assigned to work on December 25.

While all my friends were unwrapping presents and sipping eggnog by the fire, I would be formatting the weather page and—I kid you not—editing obituaries. Nothing says “Merry Christmas!” like grammar-checking death notices, right?

If you’re stuck working on a holiday, hopefully your tasks are a little cheerier than mine were. Still, being in the office when everyone else is celebrating isn’t ideal, so I’ve rounded up a few tips to soften the blow.

## **Negotiate, Negotiate, Negotiate**

Sometimes, working on a holiday is unavoidable. After all, can you imagine what would happen if every doctor, airline pilot, taxi driver, and police officer insisted on taking Thanksgiving off?

That said, you often have a little room to negotiate. Depending on the nature of your job, ask your boss if you can work from home. If that’s not an option, inquire about splitting a shift so that you only work half of the holiday. And if you absolutely have to be in the office the entire day, ask about getting an extra day off over the next holiday to make up for it. The promise of a four-day weekend over New Year’s or a few days to visit your family might make working now a little more bearable.

## **Reschedule the Holiday if You Can’t Reschedule Work**

There’s no real reason that you have to celebrate Thanksgiving on the fourth Thursday of November or Christmas on December 25, right? If you know that you’ll have to be at the office on a holiday, ask your loved ones if they’re willing to reschedule their holiday plans to accommodate your work schedule.

And if your family gathering can’t be bumped to another day, throw your own holiday shindig. You might be surprised by how many friends are excited for a chance to share their Thanksgiving leftovers at a post-Turkey-Day potluck or take a break from family activities and have a December 26 holiday movie marathon. You could even make like George Costanza and throw a rocking Festivus party.

It doesn’t matter what or when you choose to celebrate. By finding a time when you can experience the holidays—be it with family, friends, or even by yourself—you’ll feel a little less like you missed out on all fun.

## **Avoid Social Media**

OK, so you’re at the office on a holiday, and chances are that you’re feeling a bit lonely and bored. Your natural tendency might be to log onto Facebook or kill a little time scrolling through Instagram photos on your phone. Big mistake. Looking at pictures of everyone else celebrating with their families and relaxing after a big holiday feast will only put you in a funk. If you have to, leave your cell phone in your car or power it off and put it in your coat pocket.

Instead, when you need a break, go for a short walk or grab a snack. You’ll stay focused and positive, and you’ll avoid falling victim to that “poor me” feeling that comes from looking at pictures of all your friends having fun without you.

## **Make it Count**

What’s worse than working on a holiday? Working on a holiday and being so bummed, distracted, or unfocused that you don’t accomplish a single thing.

It can be hard to be productive if you’re the only one in the office, or if you really want to be out celebrating

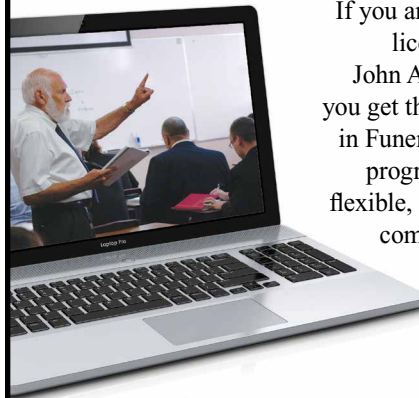
with the rest of the world, but, believe me, you'll feel much better about being at work if you make the most of your time there.

Write a list of tasks you hope to accomplish during your shift and cross them off one-by-one as you complete them. Not only will you feel productive, but the time is guaranteed to go by much faster than if you spend the day sending mopey "Happy Holiday" texts and imagining the food you could be enjoying.

Nobody wants to get stuck at the office over a holiday, but by finding other ways to celebrate and making the most of your time at work, you can survive the experience without feeling like a total Scrooge.

Oh, and wondering what happened during my dreaded Christmas at the office? My family rescheduled our activities for earlier in the day so that I could make it to my afternoon shift at the paper. Although it seemed a little strange to be eating a big holiday dinner at noon, it was definitely better than missing out on the fun altogether. Plus, because I worked Christmas, I was able to negotiate a few extra days off over New Year's to fly to Chicago and hang out with my new boyfriend—who eventually became my husband. (We like to say we fell in love under the New Year's Eve fireworks on Navy Pier.) Not such a bad holiday season after all.

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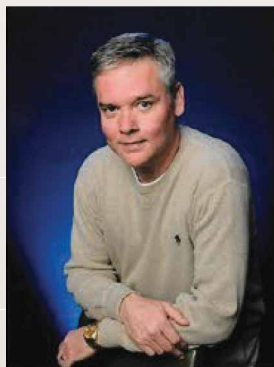


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**Mike Blair (615) 308-7811**  
**mikeb@auroracasket.com**

I've been with Matthews Aurora for 22 years and a Funeral Director/Embalmer for 32 years. My travels include most of middle and west Tennessee and Western KY. Served as Past President of the Tennessee Funeral Supply Sales Club. Reda and I have a son, Brandon and we call Franklin, TN home.



**Tripp Byrd (901) 652-0977**  
**jbyrd@matw.com**

I've been with Matthews Aurora since 1996, I started with a Regional Company called West Point. My travels include West Tennessee, North Mississippi and North Eastern Arkansas. I also served as Past President of the Tennessee Funeral Supply Sales Club. I live in Arlington, Tennessee with my wife Judy.



**Daniel Pierce**

I have been a Funeral Service Consultant with Matthews Aurora serving East Tennessee since August 2019, prior to that I served 2 years as an apprentice in the funeral service industry. I attended Tennessee Technological University, playing football and graduating with a degree in Business Management. My wife Cara and daughter Ruby and I currently reside in Cleveland, TN.



**David Frye (812) 584-0146**  
**dfrye@auroracasket.com**

Regional Sales Director with over 15 years in leadership roles, most recently, the past year with Matthews Aurora. Cincinnati is my home where I live with my wife Amy and my triplet sons - Tucker, Tanner and Tyler.



**Max Miller (618) 55-4367**  
**mmiller@auroracasket.com**

I have been a Funeral Service Consultant with Matthews Aurora for 26 years. Prior to that, I was a licensed Funeral Director/Embalmer for 25 years. I travel West Tennessee, North Mississippi and Southern Illinois for Matthews Aurora and reside in Anna, IL, with my wife Janis.



**Tim Kalthoff (865) 567-0188**  
**tkalthoff@matw.com**

Funeral Service Consultant with Matthews Aurora since 2006 and in the funeral service industry since 1985. I travel east and middle Tennessee territory and have served as Past President for the Tennessee Funeral Supply Sales Club. I live in Knoxville and Franklin and married to Pam, Funeral Director and Past President of Tennessee Funeral Directors Association. We have a blended family of six children and seven grandchildren.



**Roger Grizzel (423) 292-6103**  
**rgrizzel@auroracasket.com**

I was in funeral service as a Funeral Director/Embalmer for 19 years before joining Matthews Aurora. My responsibilities for 28 years have been calling on firms in TN, KY & VA. Barbara & I have two daughters & two grandsons. We reside in Kingsport, TN.



# Tennessee Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

The current members of the Tennessee Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers held a luncheon on October 8, 2019, in Nashville to honor the immediate past president of the board, Charles A. Rahm, and a former board member, State Representative Mark Cochran.

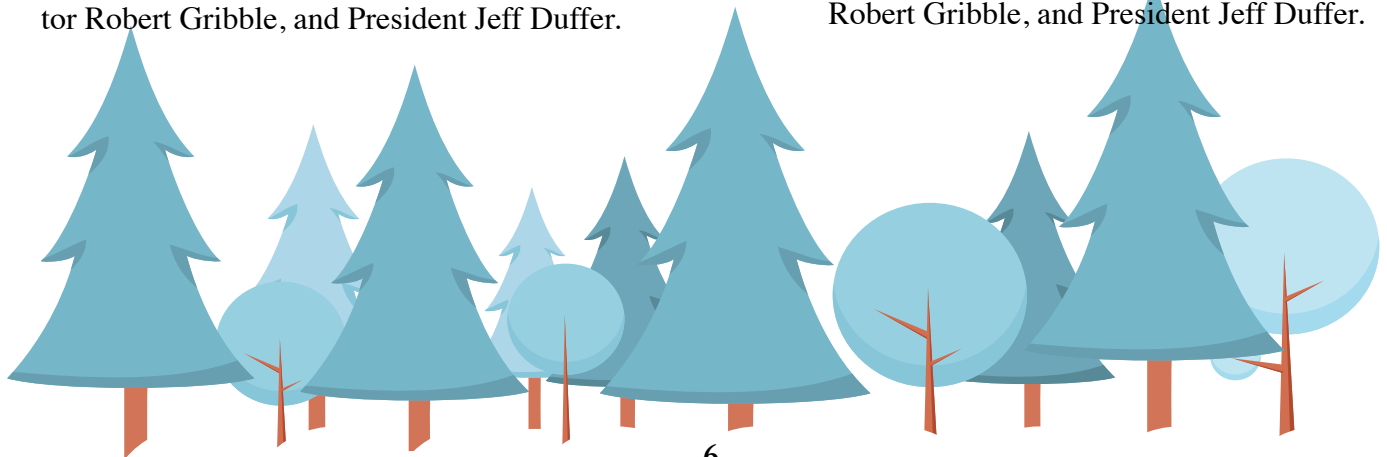
Mr. Rahm served as a board member from 2016 to 2018 and as President of the board during 2018. Rep. Cochran served as the consumer board member from 2015 to 2018 and as the Continuing Education Liaison during 2016.



Pictured in the photo from left to right:  
State Representative Mark Cochran, Executive Director Robert Gribble, and President Jeff Duffer.



Pictured in the photo from left to right:  
Past President Charles A. Rahm, Executive Director Robert Gribble, and President Jeff Duffer.







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# THE GOD GIVEN FREEDOM TO MOURN

## THE GRIEVER'S BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

### INTRODUCTION:

God gave you the freedom to mourn, and for centuries this human freedom worked pretty well. However in mainstream American culture today the mourning process, observing a mourning period is almost looked at as a thing of the past, an ancient coping relic that has little if anything to do with modern sensibilities. Being sensible about grief and mourning – my, oh, my, is that an idea fraught with psychological and spiritual peril or what? Sensible grieving! Is it remotely possibly that other non-grieving people actually believe this? – What has happened to us? What has happened to human sensitivity?

On simply a “normal” day for us griever’s it is usually difficult enough to experience the pain and anguish of our personal loss and grief, but when the Holiday’s come around this pain usually will only intensify, particularly if this is the first of a series of holiday experiences where our loved one will not be at the fireplace hearth any longer.

Grievors and mourners, people just like you have rights. Because of this truth I have developed the Bill of Rights of Mourner’s. Remember Matthew 5:4 “Blessed are those who mourn for they will find comfort.” Christ Jesus himself blessed the painful experiences that you are currently feeling and no matter how much we ache and yearn for our departed loved ones we should never underestimate this scriptural fact. Christ himself blessed the state of mourning.

However in 2015 there are forces about that can and do ignore not only this scripture and hence lack sensitivity to how you are feeling, and then unwittingly they fail to offer you any comfort whatsoever.

The harsh truth is that grieving and mourning in 2015 is not simple.

It is time to declare your freedoms that God has given you and that Jesus Christ has blessed. So here goes:

### THE HOLIDAY’S AND HUMAN LOSS THE MOURNER’S BILL OF RIGHTS

#### 1. YOU HAVE THE FREEDOM SAY “TIME OUT, I’VE HAD ENOUGH, NO MORE!”

You have the absolute God given right to say time out, I have had enough, no more! You have this right anytime you need to express it. Remember much about life and

particularly at the holidays is phony and artificial and insincere. Take time out to let off a little steam, to step away from all the hustle and bustle and simply have a little self- huddle, and yes some self-pity, and then start over.

#### 2. TELL IT LIKE IT IS.

You have the right to tell it like it is. When people ask “How are you doing?” you have the freedom to tell them precisely how you really feel, not just what you think they want to hear. However if you are devoted to being polite you also have the right to smile graciously and say that you are just fine, because frankly telling some people how you feel, how you really feel might not be worth your time – and sadly, but true, some people will never understand what you are experiencing and feeling anyway.

#### 3. BAH HUMBUG DAYS.

OK, let’s be honest: Old Ebenezer Scrooge started out as a grumpy, crabby, fussy cranky old man, and most of his cantankerousness stemmed from his unresolved feelings of loss and grief in his life. In the end however he revolutionized his life, but it took time. Grief and mourning take time. So you have the right and freedom to some Bah Humbug days, old Scrooge took many Bah Humbug days. You do not have to be jolly and happy, and in the holiday spirit constantly. You are not a bad person just because you do not feel like singing Christmas carols all the time or feel like you are going to spit up if you hear “Sleigh Ride” or “Chestnuts Roasting on an Open Fire” one more time.

#### 4. DO THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

This might well capture your family’s attention off guard in a big way. You have the right to do things differently. There are no state or federal laws that says that you must always do things, traditions, and the like the same way every year. Traditions are great, but your life and possibly hence some of your traditions might have changed in their meaning and importance to you since the death of your loved one. Traditions can also be time consuming and exhausting. You might decide to send 10 holiday cards instead of the usual 50,000, or you can send no cards at all – and if you do this I suspect that Western civilization will survive. You can open presents at someplace other than your own living room. You can decide – no more trees – no more lights, and here is something that will capture



attention – you can have a holiday pizza (much easier on you) instead of a turkey, or ask another relative or friend to cook the turkey for you, or get a holiday plant instead of the tree – the plant lasts much longer too.

Of course my personal preference is the turkey over pizza because I love the turkey leftovers – hot turkey sandwiches, turkey hash, turkey ala mode, turkey baked Alaska, turkey casseroles, turkey pot pie, turkey Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday.

#### **5. BE WHERE YOU WANT TO BE.**

You have the freedom and right to be where and with whom you want to be. Be at home or at relatives or friends, or just stay home alone. Nobody said you have to have snow to have the holiday (in fact most of the world doesn't have snow) so choose any city any state you want. There is no law that says you must stay at home, but if you decide to stay at home plan for it ahead of time. Home alone is a fine place to be, and it might just be a much needed tonic to have quiet time and reflect on cherished memories. However don't make the "Home Alone" without planning for its consequences. Think is out carefully, but retain the option of changing your mind at the last minute, so have a backup plan.

#### **6. HAVE SOME FUN.**

I grew up in Iowa where nobody ever had any fun. Life was a series of listening constantly to extremely sobering and frightening weather reports out of Omaha. Those weather reports could depress a hyena. However regardless of the odd psychologies out in bleak Iowa you have the right to have some fun. When you have a day that is not so bad and you feel like doing something just for the fun of it – then do it. Do not be afraid of what someone else will say if they see you laughing and having a good time. Remember you are not beholden to anyone but yourself concerning how you manage your own feelings. Laughter is healing grief is every bit as important as tears. In fact I personally believe and have counseled thousands of bereaved people that a good belly laugh is worth more than ten valiums.

#### **7. CHANGE DIRECTIONS MID-STREAM.**

You have the right to change directions in mid-stream. It's true! Grief in general is an unpredictable emotion and can easily ambush a person without any prior notification or preparation. You may be all ready to go somewhere or do something and suddenly be overwhelmed. When that happens it is ok to change your mind. There is plenty of time in life to be predictable. Exercise your right to change when and where you need.

#### **8. DO THINGS AT A DIFFERENT TIME THAN IN THE PAST.**

You have the right to do things at a different time than in the past. Go to church or temple at a different time. Open gifts at a different time. Have Thanksgiving breakfast instead of Thanksgiving dinner. Go to bed at a different time – get up early or sleep late. Tell your guests that THE PARTY IS OVER and you are going to paint, cook, plant, sew, cry, sleep, jog, watch TV – whatever – but the party of over – and say a polite good-bye and mean it.

#### **9. REST, QUIET TIME, PEACE, MEDITATION, PRAYER, SILENCE, SOLITUDE.**

You have the right to rest, have quiet time, peace, medication, prayer and silence and solitude. You do not have or need to be busy all the time. In fact being constantly busy may well be a sign that you are not thinking about the reality of what has happened to you and hence are in truth running from your grief and hence wasting valuable grieving healing time. Take a nap when you want to. Sleep can recharge your battery and spirit. Take solitude time, because it is a wonderful time for God to simply listen to you in solitude. This is why I believe prayer works, because God is most often silent He is the greatest listener of all.

#### **10. DO IT ALL DIFFERENT AGAIN NEXT YEAR.**

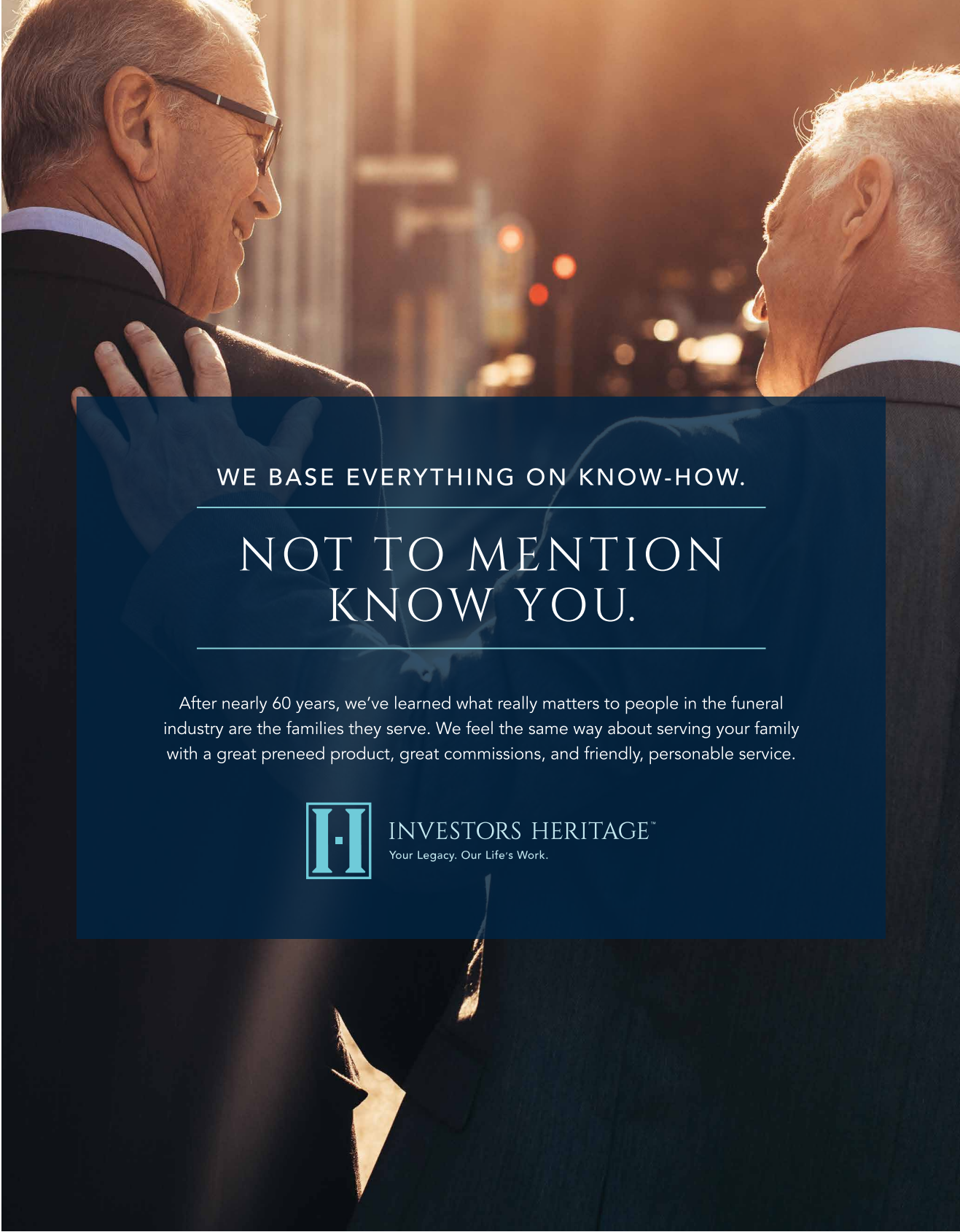
You have the right to do it all different again next year. Just because you change things one year and try something different does not mean that you have written that activity in stone. Next year you can always change it back or do it in yet another new way.

**THE TIME TO START THINKING AND  
PREPARING FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON  
AND WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AND WHAT  
YOU DON'T WANT TO DO IS NOW.**

**THINK THIS OUT NOW!**

**JUST BECAUSE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON MIGHT  
BE PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT THIS YEAR IS  
NOT A PREDICTION THAT FUTURE HOLIDAY  
SEASONS WILL BE AS DIFFICULT. THE PAIN  
OF GRIEF PASSES WITH TIME – IT IS TRUE – IF  
YOU WORK AT IT – AND ONE YEAR FROM NOW  
YOU WILL BE A DIFFERENT PERSON.**

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**Gabriella Forsyth**  
Cookeville, Tennessee

**Jennifer Holladay**  
Nashville, Tennessee

**Cayley Freeman**  
Mount Juliet, Tennessee

**Josiah Klouda**  
Knoxville, Tennessee

**Alex McAnally**  
Rutledge, Tennessee

**Logan Orr**  
Paducah, Kentucky

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Fifteenth Avenue Baptist Church  
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# Obituaries

## **ROBERT MARSHALL VANDERFORD, SR.**

May 01, 1945 - June 19, 2019

Robert Marshall Vanderford, Sr., age 74, of South Fulton, TN, passed away Wednesday, June 19, 2019, 10:10 a.m., at Mercy Health – Lourdes Hospital of Paducah, KY.

Robert was a member of Highway 45-East Church of Christ. He was a veteran of the United States Air Force, serving during the Vietnam Conflict.



Robert was a graduate of South Fulton High School East and attended Lane College, Murray State University, and Draughton's Business College where he received a degree in business administration. He then attended and graduated from the Kentucky School of Mortuary Science in Louisville, KY, where he became a license funeral director and embalmer. He later also became certified in both Illinois and Tennessee. Robert retired from the former Good Year Tire & Rubber Company. He was the former owner and operator of Vanderford Funeral Home in South Fulton, TN from 1971 to 2004. He most recently served as a funeral director, embalmer, and cremation specialist with Pettus-Rowland Funeral Home of Paducah, KY.

Robert spent his adulthood in the Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons as a member and Past Master of Jacksonville Lodge #50, Rajah Temple #92 in Hopkinsville, KY, and Zarah Temple #151 in Jackson, TN. He was also a member of the Marshall Alexander American Legion Post #72, Ram Rod Motorcycle Club, Inc., Ken-Teen Golfers, S.O.A.R., the Twin Cities Men's Fish & Wild Meat Group, and a life-member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

Robert was an active member of the Kentucky Associations of Morticians, The Funeral Directors Association of Kentucky, West Kentucky Funeral Directors and the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association.

Robert is survived by his loving wife of 36 years, Mrs. Beverly Jean McKinney Vanderford.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Fayette Marshall (F.M.) Vanderford and Hattie Robert Bethea (H.B.), his father-in-law, Wardell (Buster) Johnson and his mother-in-law, Gwendolyn (Pete) Johnson.

## **CARL MARK BARKER,**

age 82, of Kingston, formerly of Chattanooga, passed away Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville. He was born October 18, 1936 in Cullman, Alabama. Mark was a 1956 graduate of John A. Gupton College of Mortuary Science where he received his license as a Funeral Director & Embalmer for the State



of Tennessee; and has since devoted his entire life to serving families in Chattanooga, Kingston and Knoxville. For countless years, he served as an Independent Contractor for several funeral homes throughout East Tennessee as well as a Licensed Prearrangement Specialist. Over the years, Mark was a member of many organizations, often serving in an official capacity. He served on several professional and civic advisory boards including, but not limited to the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association where he served as Sergeant of Arms and District Governor; Board of the Greater Knoxville Funeral Directors Association; past President of Kingston Rotary Club; Treasurer and Board member of Roane County Chamber of Commerce; Chaplain of Kingston Police Department where he sat on the Personnel Advisory Board; and past President of Roane County Genealogical Society. Mark was also an Elder in the Presbyterian Church of America. Preceded in death by his loving wife, Sarah Crowe Barker; parents, Carl Leon & Frances Dyer Barker.

## **SURVIVORS**

Children: Rebecca Price and husband, Earl of Kingston

Scott Barker and wife, Kim of Knoxville

Sister: Sharon Barker Tunnell and husband, Roy of Spring City

3 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren

A host of nieces, nephews and many friends





It is with great sadness we announce the death of our beloved co-owner of Mynatt Funeral Home, Ronald O. Hill, Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer since 1961. Ronnie was well known and loved by many in the Halls and Fountain City communities. Ronnie had the privilege and honor of serving thousands of our community's families over his 58 years at Mynatt Funeral Home.

He will be greatly missed by his immediate family and our funeral home family.

**RONALD O. HILL**, age 77, of Halls Crossroads, passed away while surrounded by his family on Sunday, September 1, 2019.

A true and faithful servant to God and his fellow man, Ronald spent his life helping others in their times of need. He dutifully served in the United States Army and in the Vietnam War. He devoted 58 years to his career as a funeral director at Mynatt Funeral Home. If kindness had a physical form, it was Ronald. He greeted everyone he met with a loving smile, an honest handshake, and a kind word. He loved people and loved to make them laugh. Ronald was a faithful member of Salem Baptist Church. He spent his free time singing, farming, gardening, and listening to his favorite Southern Gospel Quartet music. But his greatest love was for his faith and his family.

Ronald is preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Opal Hill, and his granddaughter, Emma Jane Walker.

Survivors include wife of 42 years, Judy Jones Walker Hill; children Angela Hill Ferguson (Randy), Jenny Walker Weldon (Michael), and Mark Walker (Jill); grandchildren Evan Walker, Grey and Georgia Weldon, Lane and Caroline Ferguson; brother Berney Hill (Susan); sister-in-law Joy Zimmerman; brothers-in-law George Jones, Jr. (Faye), and Jerry Jones (Janice); and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Announcement by Mynatt Funeral Home, Halls Chapel [www.mynattfh.com](http://www.mynattfh.com).

Mynatt Funeral Home  
2829 Rennoc Road  
Knoxville, TN 37918  
Phone: 865-688-2331

Halls Chapel  
4131 E. Emory Road  
Knoxville, TN 37938  
Phone: 865-922-9195



**SERGEANT JAMES KELLY CROW JR.**, age 52, of Dover, Tennessee, passed away on Wednesday, September 18, 2019 at St. Thomas West in Nashville, TN. He was born January 4, 1967 in Clarksville, TN, son of James Kelly Crow Sr. of Houma, LA and the late Nancy Marie Wallace.

James was a 1989 graduate of John A. Guppton Mortuary College where he earned an

Associate Degree in Mortuary Science and has been employed with Anglin Funeral Home since 1985. He later graduated in 2003 from the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy. He then served with the Cumberland City Police Department, then the 23rd Judicial Drug Task Force, and was currently serving with the Stewart County Sheriff's Department.

He is preceded in death by his mother, Nancy Marie Shemwell Wallace. Survivors include his daughter Lacey Crow, Dover, TN, father, James Kelly Crow, Sr., Houma, LA, brothers, Derek Crow, New Orleans, LA, Nicholas Crow, Houma, LA, and sister, Melissa Marie Guidry, Houma, LA.

Arrangements are entrusted to Anglin Funeral Home, Dover, Tennessee.  
Anglin Funeral Home, Inc.  
402 Donelson Pkwy  
P.O. Box 100  
Dover, TN 37058  
Phone: (931) 232-5454  
Fax: (931) 232-8630



**MRS. THELMA HOWELL**, age 91, of Cartersville, Georgia, died Friday evening, October 4, 2019 in Cartersville, Georgia. Mother of Tommy Howell, Tommy is President/Owner/Licensed Funeral Director & Embalmer, Lawrence Funeral Home, Chapel Hill, TN, he is also Board of Director for the Tennessee Funeral Security, Inc.

Mrs. Howell was born in Gordon County, Georgia and was a daughter of John Frank and Amanda Ida Chambers Mauney. She retired after over 20 years as the secretary of the guidance office, which she helped establish, at Cherokee

High School in Canton, Georgia. She loved life and lived it to the fullest daily, influencing many people along her path. Mrs. Howell was a member of the First Baptist Church of Cartersville. In addition to her parents, she was also preceded in death by her husband of 70 years, Luke Howell, who died in February of 2018, and by two sisters, Julia Avery and Mildred Carter. She will be missed by all who knew her.

Mrs. Howell is survived by her children, Debbie (Nathan) Eberhart, Cartersville, GA and Tommy (Jane) Howell, Chapel Hill, TN; grandchildren, Clay Howell, Las Vegas, NV, Laura (Chris) English, Memphis, TN; great granddaughters, Gabby Howell and Abigail English.

A special recognition and thanks is expressed to the Staff of Maple Ridge Health Care Center of Cartersville for the kindness and compassionate care that was given to Mrs. Thelma during her residency there.

LAWRENCE FUNERAL HOME and CREMATION SERVICES, Chapel Hill, TN, 931-364-2233 ([www.lawrencefuneral.net](http://www.lawrencefuneral.net)) in charge of arrangements.



### **Joshua Kevin Jennings**

The night sky in our part of the world got a little darker on Monday November 25, 2019. One of the brightest stars in our galaxy, Josh Jennings, passed away after a brief illness.

Josh was preceded in death by his father, Billy Jennings, and his grandfather, Joe Buck Davis. He is survived by his wife, Layne Price Jennings, his mother and step father, Donna Davis

Jennings Alexander and Jim Alexander; his grandmothers, Ms. Reba Webb Davis and Ms. Robbie Jennings, grandfather, Cecil Jennings, Jr., father and mother-in-law, Les and Pat Price; aunts and uncles Sandra Weaver (Jon), Reba Miller (Charlie), Mike Davis, Scott Davis (Shelley); sisters-in-law, Sarah Price Jones (Chris), Susan Price, and Jenny Price; cousins Jeff Miller, Courtney Miller, Melanie Akins, Bailey Davis, and Alex Davis; nieces, Jackson Jones and Austin Jones.

Josh was born in Chattanooga August 30, 1983. His first years were spent in Lookout Valley, then moving to Marion County where he attended Jasper Middle School. He ultimately graduated, with honors, from Hamilton Heights Christian Academy.

At an early age, Josh had chosen his career path, to be a mortician. This was probably not the norm for a teenager, but with his focus and determination, he made his dream a reality. A graduate of the John A. Gupton College of Mortuary Science, Josh spent his early career at Chattanooga Funeral Home. He managed Tate Funeral Home, Jasper,



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for several years. In 2011 Josh and partners Ralph Mosier and Burt Schaerer, developed Hamilton Funeral Home. Hamilton Funeral Home is an extraordinary example of Josh's commitment, talent, and drive to succeed. Hamilton is highly respected, locally owned, and offers the ultimate in compassionate service to grieving families.

In 2018, Josh's funeral group purchased Rogers Funeral Home. Rogers has been a tradition in South Pittsburg and Jasper since 1925. Through Josh's active management, Rogers has continued to thrive with the same dignity and compassion, in newly remodeled facilities.

As successful as Josh was at business it only pales in comparison to his social and community involvements. Josh was a passionate democrat who loved politics. He was voted Marion County Democratic Party Chair, the youngest person to hold that office. Josh was elected as Alderman for the Town of Jasper, where he has worked tirelessly to improve his community. Though often frustrated by the glacial speed of politics, Josh's commitment to improve the quality of life for all he served cannot be questioned.

Josh nearly single handedly revitalized the Jasper Lions Club. A club of less than 20 members has grown to over 50 through his active leadership. His willingness to get involved, supply new ideas and lead by example gives everyone the courage and confidence to get the job done. His vision of lighting the town square and providing a free Halloween festival for the children of the community resulted in the creation of the Jasper Lions Club Jack-O-Lantern Jamboree in 2016. The event exceeded expectations



in its inaugural year and continues to grow each year; 2019 attendance was estimated at 5,000 people. Josh has been awarded the highest honor of Lionism, The Melvin Jones Fellowship. Josh was recently honored as Marion County 2019 Citizen of the Year by the Marion County Chamber of Commerce. He has been voted Best Funeral Director & Best Funeral Home in the Marion County News several years running. He was also honored as Best Politician and Best Civic Club President.

All of these accolades were well deserved and received most humbly. Josh never met a stranger. His winning personality, quick wit and ready sense of humor served him well. He was always ready with a story or an amusing anecdote, and not afraid to laugh at himself.

Memories and condolences may be sent to the family by visiting [www.rogersfuneralhome.com](http://www.rogersfuneralhome.com).

Arrangements are by Rogers Funeral Home, 21 East 5th Street, Jasper, Tennessee 37347 (423-942-2682).

Rogers Funeral Home  
South Pittsburg and Jasper, Tennessee  
423-837-7176

Direct all mail to:

400 Laurel Avenue, South Pittsburg, TN 37380



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# 2019 TFDA LEGISLATIVE DONATIONS

The Tennessee Funeral Directors Association would like to thank the following Tennessee funeral professionals by supporting our legislative efforts with their generous donations:

## **PLATINUM DONATION ABOVE \$200**

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Karnes & Son Funeral Home, Kenton  
Karnes & Son Funeral Home, Rutherford  
King, Glen, Individual member

## **GOLD DONATION \$150 TO \$200**

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Shackelford Funeral Directors of Henderson  
Williamson Memorial Funeral Home & Garden  
Woodfin Funeral Chapels

## **SILVER DONATION \$100 TO \$149**

Shackelford Funeral Directors of Selmer

## **BRONZE DONATION BELOW \$100**

Yarbrough Mortuary Services

Our mission statement proclaims “TFDA facilitates the success and quality service of funeral professionals through leadership, advocacy, and education.” Advocacy is a huge portion of what TFDA provides to TN funeral professionals. The benevolence of these generous contributors allows TFDA to fulfill this most important component of our mission.

Just to give you a few examples of the importance of TFDA legislative efforts of which you may not be aware:

**Liability Limitation** – Maybe the most important accomplishment from TFDA’s legislative efforts was the successful passage of several statutes eliminating liability for funeral directors both criminally and civilly. This protection applies if the licensee has no reason to believe that the person making the arrangements did not act in good faith. This was a huge liberation for funeral professionals being held responsible for situations of which they have no control.

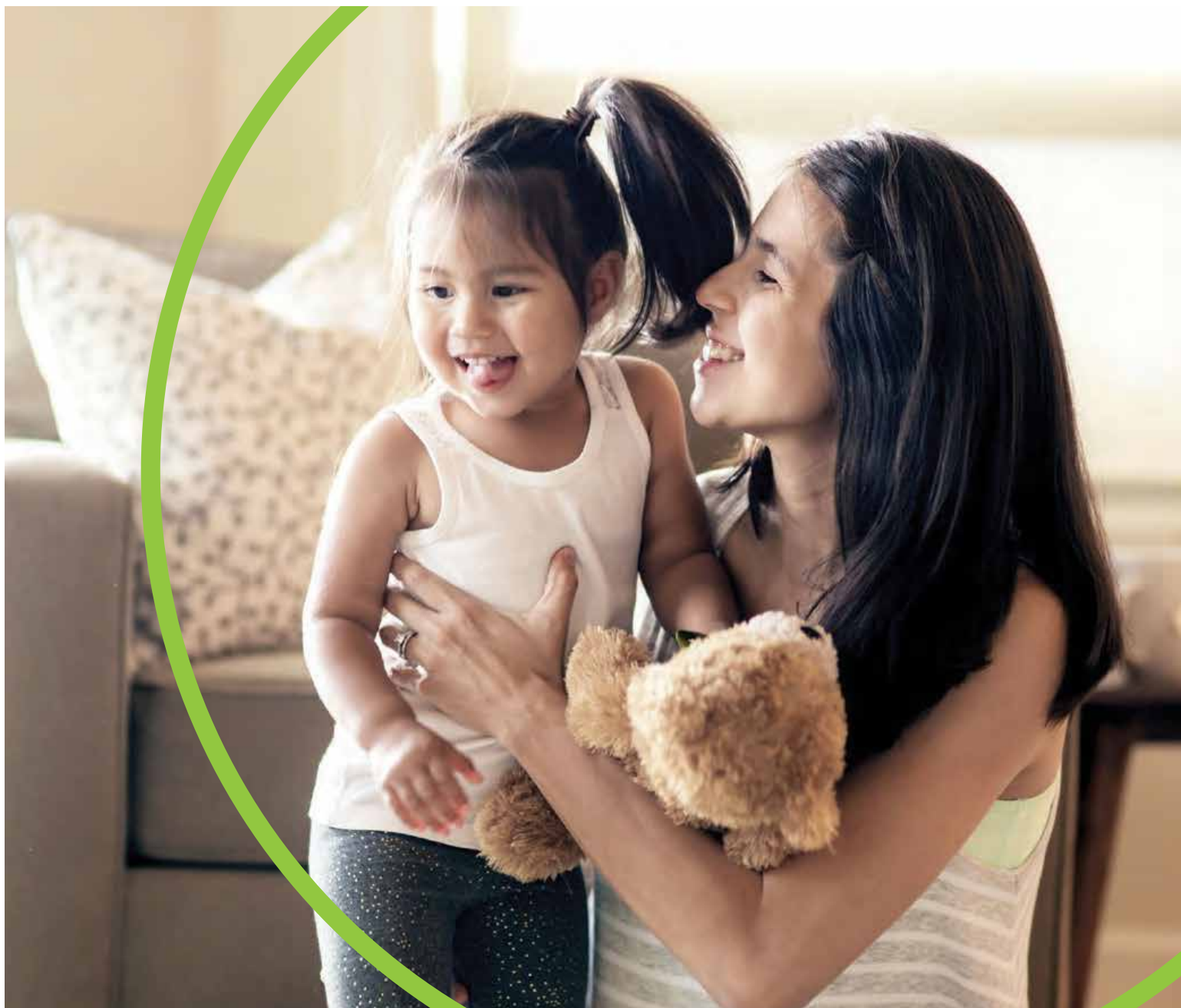
**Right to Work bill.** Over the past few years there has been several attempts to eliminate, or at best, minimize, supervisory authority of many TN regulatory boards; TN Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers, included. The proposal included no formal education as a prerequisite to the right to practice as the license would be eliminated. The only requirements would be to serve an apprenticeship and to pass the TN funeral director/embalmer test. TFDA was able to convince legislators of the importance of educating funeral directors as a public safeguard.

**Electronic Death Certificates** – Although no legislation was needed, TFDA and especially the TFDA Governmental Affairs Committee (GAC) played a major role in implementing the VIRSM program in TN. Several members of the GAC worked closely with TN Vital Records Department in getting VIRSM to the funeral homes and assisting with operation assistance when needed.

These are but a few examples, there are many more.

As in today’s world all good things come with a price. In order to continue the protection and enhancement of our profession, TFDA would respectfully ask for your assistance to join efforts with these generous donors with a donation of your own. Please help TFDA in support of our mission to facilitate the success and quality service of Tennessee funeral professionals.





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#### Veterans' Diseases Associated with Agent Orange

VA assumes that certain diseases can be related to a Veteran's qualifying military service. We call these "presumptive diseases."

VA has recognized certain cancers and other health problems as presumptive diseases associated with exposure to Agent Orange or other herbicides during military service. Veterans and their survivors may be eligible for benefits for these diseases.

- AL Amyloidosis - A rare disease caused when an abnormal protein, amyloid, enters tissues or organs
- Chronic B-cell Leukemias - A type of cancer which affects white blood cells
- Chloracne (or similar acneform disease) - A skin condition that occurs soon after exposure to chemicals and looks like common forms of acne seen in teenagers. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.
- Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 - A disease characterized by high blood sugar levels resulting from the body's inability to respond properly to the hormone insulin
- Hodgkin's Disease - A malignant lymphoma (cancer) characterized by progressive enlargement of the lymph nodes, liver, and spleen, and by progressive anemia
- Ischemic Heart Disease - A disease characterized by a reduced supply of blood to the heart, that leads to chest pain
- Multiple Myeloma - A cancer of plasma cells, a type of white blood cell in bone marrow
- Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma - A group of cancers that affect the lymph glands and other lymphatic tissue
- Parkinson's Disease - A progressive disorder of the nervous system that affects muscle movement
- Peripheral Neuropathy, Early-Onset - A nervous system condition that causes numbness, tingling, and motor weakness. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent

disabling within one year of herbicide exposure.

- Porphyria Cutanea Tarda - A disorder characterized by liver dysfunction and by thinning and blistering of the skin in sun-exposed areas. Under VA's rating regulations, it must be at least 10 percent disabling within one year of exposure to herbicides.
- Prostate Cancer - Cancer of the prostate; one of the most common cancers among men
- Respiratory Cancers (includes lung cancer) - Cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus
- Soft Tissue Sarcomas (other than osteosarcoma, chondrosarcoma, Kaposi's sarcoma, or mesothelioma) - A group of different types of cancers in body tissues such as muscle, fat, blood and lymph vessels, and connective tissues

#### Children with birth defects

VA presumes certain birth defects in children of Vietnam and Korea Veterans are associated with Veterans' qualifying military service.

#### Veterans with Lou Gehrig's Disease

VA presumes Lou Gehrig's Disease (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis or ALS) diagnosed in all Veterans who had 90 days or more continuous active military service is related to their service, although ALS is not related to Agent Orange exposure.

#### MARINES HONORED

A short less than 5-minute presentation at the funeral service of any Marine. It is provided through the Marine Corps League. They come in Red jackets and hats, march into Church Call. The Marine hymn is played, and they salute the remains or ashes and present certificates to the next of kin. It is very short but very meaningful to the family of a Marine.

For more information contact:

Anthony Westbrooks (615) 504-6044,  
westbrooks05@Comcast.net or Glen Barry Evans  
(615) 832-7574, GEBY@GEBYSAN.NET.

<http://www.orangeheartmedal.org/>

The information was sent in by TFDA member Cindi C. Milam,  
Austin and Bell Funeral Home, Manager/Funeral  
Director, Email: Cindi.C.Milam@gmail.com,  
White House: (615) 672-5000