

THE THANA GRAM

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Hello Fellow Funeral Service Professionals!

It's hard to believe Summer is almost over and that Fall is rapidly approaching. Kids are back in school, football season is among us, and everything is in full swing. With all that is going on I hope that you find time to spend with your family and those you love when you are not in service to others.

As usual, your TFDA Board and office staff are hard at work for you. Ashlee and I were thrilled to host the TFDA Board a few weeks ago here in Gallatin for our President's Retreat and August board meeting. We spent a large part of our time together planning for the upcoming year and let me tell you we have some great things in store. All of what we do could not be possible without the work done by our awesome board, staff and committee members. We have some great committees and if you're not involved in a committee and would like to be, please let me know.

We will gather in a few short weeks for our fall district meetings and I am very excited to see friends across the state. The meeting dates are as follows: West District, Thursday, September 26th at Jackson Country Club, Jackson, TN; East District, Monday, September 30th at The Chop House, Kodak, TN; and Middle District, Tuesday, October 1st at the Wilson County Expo Center, Lebanon, TN. EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS: 3:00PM – 4:00PM - Funeral Service Education: "Funeral Director and Grief" Presenter: Mr. Todd Van Beck (Approved for 1 CEU). 4:00PM – 6:00PM - "Active Shooter in the Workplace, What Funeral Directors Need to Know." Presenter: Mr. Chad Christian, Former U.S Secret Service Agent, Presidential Detail (Approved for 2 CEU's) REGIONAL DISTRICT MEETING (Approved for 2 CEU's) 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm. I encourage everyone to attend these educational sessions and meetings in your respective districts.

In October, we will be sending out TFDA Dues Statements. I encourage you to pay your dues, contribute to our PAC fund and encourage former members and new members to be a part of the TFDA. When you fill out your paperwork, please include all employees and a personal email address for each one so we can ensure that all members and staff are aware of the events and happenings of the TFDA.

As always, none of what we do would be possible without you, the members of the finest professional organization in all the land, the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association. If we can ever be of assistance to you or anyone that you know of, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Yours in Service,
Randy Nash
TFDA President 2019/2020



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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LEGACY OF AN OVERWEIGHT UNDERTAKER

BY TODD W. VAN BECK
DIRECTOR OF CONTINUING EDUCATION
JOHN A. GUPTON COLLEGE



You probably think that the “new” low-carbohydrate diet regimes were pioneered by far-seeing and learned medical people like Dr. Atkins. Well this is totally incorrect. The truth is that the low-carbohydrate diet was developed by a 19th century English undertaker by the name of William Banting.

Today, the Atkins diet is a household name and William Banting is forgotten (in most places.) However Banting is not forgotten altogether. Today in Sweden the term “banting” is still the word most commonly used for dieting to achieve weight loss. In Swedish ‘Att banta’ means to bant, or to diet. Only three men in history have been immortalized by having their names enter the English language as verbs. The first was the Irishman, Captain Charles C. Boycott. Another was Louis Pasteur, and the third is the focus of this article – William Banting.

William Banting was born in London in 1797. He was born into an upper middle class family of funeral directors who for four generations held the Royal warrant as the undertaker to Great Britain’s royalty. The Banting firm held the Royal warrant until 1928.

The London Directories indicate that a firm known as France & Banting appeared at 101 St. Martin’s Lane in 1780 and continued at that location until 1799 (the year in which George Washington died!). In 1806 William France is listed as an undertaker in Pall Mall and was working with Thomas Banting. The firm of Banting & France also served as cabinet makers and upholsterers to the Royal family. In fact the prestigious auction house “Mallett” of London and New York is at the time of this writing auctioning off a King William IV mahogany breakfast table made by the firm of Banting & France. The auctioneer

instructs any potential buyer to “please contact Mallett” for the price!

The history of the France Undertaking firm can be traced back to c. 1713 (this firm is still in business known today as A. France & Son). It was Banting & France who organized the spectacular state funeral for Lord Horatio Nelson in 1806. The mahogany coffin for Nelson, which cost 800 pounds was made from the mainmast of the Orient, the flagship of the defeated French during the Battle of the Nile. The coffin was 6ft 8in long and 26in wide and weighed one ton! The coffin was created by Mr. Chester Chittenden who was the coffin maker and trimmer for France & Banting. (The name of the firm flips back and forth over the years from Banting & France to France & Banting.)

Even though the Banting & France firm had been responsible for the funerals of royalty for many years it was not until June 10, 1811 when King George III issued the Royal Warrant to the firm and henceforth be formally recognized as the Royal Undertakers. The Banting family would hold the Royal Warrant until 1928 – 117 years!

Thomas Banting’s son William Banting, the focus of this article was the second generation to hold the royal warrant. In subsequent generations William Banting 1826-1901 and his son William Westbrook Banting 1857-1932 likewise served under warrant to the Royal Family when any death occurred.

By the time Thomas Banting retired and William took over the family undertaking business the family had done very well. The Banting family lived in a Georgian town house in Kensington, which was lavishly decorated and furnished. William Banting’s wife had a impressive jewellery collection worth several thousands of dollars, and in the basement of their four story property William kept an enviable wine cellar which he passed on to his eight children (two boys, six girls) in his will. It is estimated that William Banting’s estate in 1878 would be worth 4.4 million US dollars today.

William Banting was a good humored man with a distinctive chin beard and a puckish sense of humor. However Mr. Banting suffered from a major life disability – he was fat, extremely fat. Standing only 5’ 5” Banting in 1863 tipped the scales at 305 lbs. Banting had been mis-

erable for a long, long time, and now in semi-retirement he was depressed and in poor health. Banting's daily routine would depress a hyena.

Every morning Banting would heave himself out of bed at 8:00 a.m. hoist a corset around his bulging stomach as he struggled to get into his three piece funeral suit. He could not tie his shoes, and he had to walk down the stairs of his home backwards in order not to place too much weight on his knees. He also suffered from boils and two carbuncles, he was loosing his hearing because of his weight, his sign was fuzzy because of the weight, and on top of all this he also had an umbilical rupture because of the weight.

None of Banting's family on either parent's side had any tendency towards obesity. However, when William was in his thirties he started to become overweight. His physician prescribed exercise, so William would go rowing in his boat on the Thames, but all this did was cause him a tremendous appetite and he put back on more pounds than ever – so much for exercise.

Banting went into the hospital more than twenty times because of his obesity. He tried swimming, walking, riding and taking the sea air. He drank gallons of physic and liquor potassae (this was a Victorian concoction of the juice from a nut, and liquefied herbs which created a cathartic – it did not work), took the spa waters, tried low-calorie foods, tried starvation diets, took up to three Turkish baths a week for one calendar year and lost only 6 pounds.

The worst however for Mr. Banting, as it is for most people with weight problems, was the cruelty of society. Banting tried to laugh off the weight jokes, he tried to be thick skinned and not let the comments sting, he tried not to have his feelings damaged, but nevertheless he felt, as all overweight people do, the inevitable sting of such anti-fatism. The Victorian myth that if you were fat you were extremely attractive because you could afford good food and drink simply wilts when one examines the literature on the subject available in the 1860's. Overweight people were the object for scorn, even 140 years ago. One publication "The London Examiner" refers specifically to Banting's dilemma with his corpulence problem in this sarcastic piece of writing:

"...at the end of 1863 these serious matter were set off by one that provided merriment for many a day and year. A Mr. Banting, who was so fat

that he could not tie his shoestrings, had to descend stairs backwards and involuntarily provided cheap entertainment for street boys, wrote to the papers (and afterwards also published a pamphlet) that, after taking innumerable Turkish baths, drenching himself at mineral springs and rowing until he was not only fat but dripping, all in vain and more, he had rid himself of a fabulous number of stones by following a simple course of diet. A big discussion followed, many imitators adopted his plans with varied results, and "doing Banting" became a household expression. I doubt whether it is quite extinct yet. The comic papers and signers made themselves merry; every burlesque and pantomime scored it joke, and Banting found himself great in fame as well as in person, rivaling (for a time) even those weighty immortals, Falstaff and Sancho Panza."

The Royal Undertaker being compared to Falstaff and Sancho Panza! Mr. Banting was so stung by the sniggers and snide aside remarks of friends and strangers as he waddled to his undertaking shop at 27 St. James's Street off Piccadilly, that he eventually avoided social gatherings and public transport altogether just to escape "the sneers and remarks of the cruel and injudicious." Banting even started to refuse to appear at royal funerals preferring to leave exposure at such monumental public events to his son.

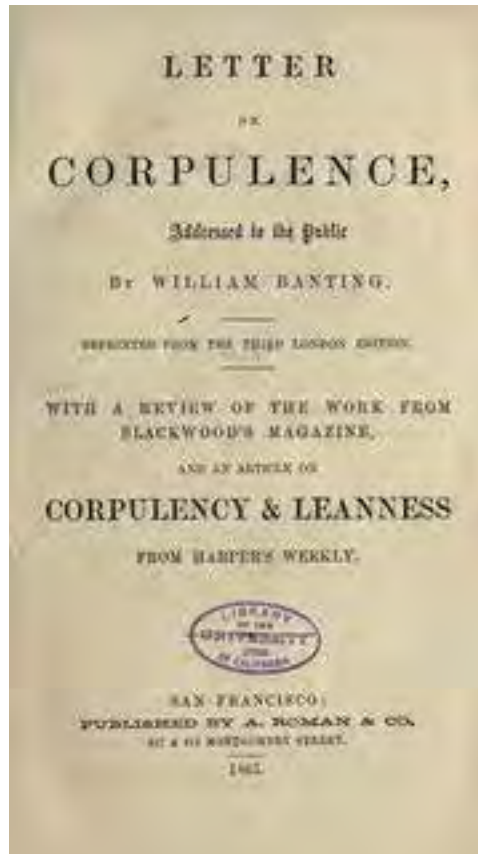
Banting was extremely vulnerable, in trouble, and he knew it. He wrote in a desperate tone "If fat is not an insidious creeping enemy, I do not know what it is."

Here is William Banting's diet before he wrote "The

Letter." For breakfast he would eat bread and milk, a pint of tea ladelled with plenty of milk and sugar, and slices of buttered toast. For dinner he would eat meat, drink beer, and end up with bread and pastry. For tea time he would eat a meal similar to breakfast, and for supper he would eat fruit tarts or bread and milk.

Finally William Banting read of a physician from Paris who had promoted the idea that starches and sugars accounted for weight gain not simply fat. The pioneering physician in Paris was hooted off the stage by the medical fraternity. So much for a new idea!

Banting decided that he would develop a new type of diet. This is what he came up with. For each meal Mr. Banting allowed himself the following: up to six ounces of bacon, beef, mutton, venison, kidneys, fish or any form of poultry or game; the 'fruit of any



pudding' – he was denied the pastry; any vegetable except potato; and at dinner, two or three glasses of good claret, sherry, or Madeira; tea without milk or sugar. Champagne, port, beer were forbidden; only one ounce of toast a day.

Banting jumped into the diet. On this diet Banting lost nearly 1 lb per week from August 1862 to August 1863. After 38 weeks Banting felt better than he had for the past 20 years. By the end of the year, not only had his hearing been restored, he had much more vitality and he had lost 46 lbs in weight and 12 ¼ inches off his waist. He suffered no inconvenience whatever from the new diet, and was able to come downstairs forward naturally with perfect ease, go upstairs and take exercise freely without the slightest inconvenience. Banting even started working funerals again and going to the office in public. His umbilical rupture was greatly improved, his sight was restored, his hearing improved. Banting was delighted and he was able to maintain the new eating habit.

William Banting was so thrilled with his “new diet” that he wanted to share the good news with others. The news of the Banting diet started with a small pamphlet or booklet which Banting wrote entitled “Letter on Corpulence Addressed to the Public.” It is an interesting footnote in history that the first diet instruction book was not written by a dietician or a medical doctor, but by an undertaker. It became one of the most famous works on obesity ever written. First published in 1863, it went into many editions and continued to be published long after Banting's death.

A hundred and forty years later Dr. Atkins reaped millions from his diet, while William Banting asked for no recompense for his publications. Indeed, the elderly undertaker saw it as a public duty to pass on the “cure” for obesity and gave all the profits from the many editions of “Letter on Corpulence” to hospital charities. The Banting Letter sold 63,000 copies in Great Britain alone. In 1868 Banting published a proposal and started a fund from the Letter's profits to found and endow a new institution for the service of humanity – the Middlesex County Convalescent Hospital. Banting's dream was to have an institution for working-class people who could not afford to convalesce but had to return to work to make ends meet thus allowing no time to get over their hospital treatment and hence succumbed to relapses. The hospital opened in 1868.

Predictably William Banting's greatest detractors were as Atkins is today the medical establishment. Some physicians in Banting's time even started the rumor that Bantings own diet had killed him. The result was a severe howl of protest and a bitter controversy and Banting's papers, character and book were ridiculed and distorted. Center to the attack was that Mr. Banting was just an “un-

dertaker.” The medical people asked this question: “What does an undertaker know about the workings of the human body?” The medical community looked their noses down, way down on the undertaking profession. Again Bantings was hurt and stunned by the attack, however the public was impressed. Many desperate, overweight people tried the Banting diet and found that it worked. Like it or not the undertaker had shown the physician something new!

So popular was the Banting diet that a popular song made the music hall rounds:

**Some time ago where e'er I strayed
I heard the observation made,
To which I close attention paid,
'How very stout you're getting.'
Said one, 'Dear me, you waddle, quiet,
You bid fair to become a fright.'
Another said, 'you're such a sight,
You're like a bladder blown out tight.
And only see where e'er you go
How you're compelled to puff and blow.
You surely soon will bust your clo'.
If you don't follow Banting,
If you continue thus so stout,
You'll fall a victim to the gout,
You really must try Banting.**

William Banting died in 1878 at the age of 81 years. He was buried in Brompton Cemetery a short distance today from Harrods's Department Store. A few years ago I visited William Banting's grave in the Brompton Cemetery. I was in London doing a series of seminars for the Funeral Directors Association of Great Britain. Finding Banting's grave was short of impossible and if it had not been for the charming sexton of the cemetery I would never have located the stone. The area where the Banting's are interred is somewhat grown over (due to lack of maintenance funds) but the large, dark impressing stone still stands straight. I was honored to pay my respects to this great funeral director.

William Banting's papers, his letters, his diary, details of where he was educated, and most importantly his notes concerning Royal funerals and the history of the Banting Undertaking Establishment were inherited by his great granddaughter-in-law who after experiencing a major depression in the late 1950's and who for some odd reason thought William Banting a “horrid little man,” destroyed ALL the documents by burning them. Unforgivable!

William Banting was truly a philanthropist, he did not profit monetarily from the “Letter”, he simply wanted, by having a good heart, to share his great discovery. Banting wanted the world to know. I suspect that William Ban-



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ting would be extremely pleased to know that 140 + years later, his diet really is known worldwide to thousands, millions, albeit under another name.

Throughout the many years that the Banting firm served as the Royal Undertakers the firm survived through many social changes like transportation of remains by the railroad, the advent of embalming and the extremely lavish and opulent royal funeral décor. Banting's client list reads like a Who's Who of English Royalty (Prince Albert – 1861, Queen Alexandra – 1925, Prince Alfred – 1782, Queen Anne – 1714, King Edward VII – 1910, King George I – 1727, King George II – 1760, King George III – 1820, King George IV – 1830, Lord Mountbatten – 1922, Queen Victoria – 1901). In 1852 Bantings were responsible for the Duke of Wellington's funeral. While Wellington's funeral was not "royal" in the strict sense of the word it was the grandest public event of the century, likened perhaps only to the funerals of Lord Nelson in 1806 or Sir Winston Churchill in 1964.

In 1900 Bantings had arranged just 16 funerals in the whole year. By 1903 that number had doubled. Bantings were expensive, very expensive. The firm was able to accept only the cream, the carriage trade of London society. During this period of time the firm was headed by the last of the Banting line of undertaker's William Westbrook Banting. On February 27, 1902 William Westbrook Banting reissued his grand-father William's now famous Letter on Corpulence from the address of the Banting firm 27 St. James's Street. The family had used 26 & 27 St. James's Street for over 50 years. Queen Victoria's funeral procession had passed right in front of Bantings from Pall Mall to Piccadilly. In later years W.W. Banting lavishly refurbished the shop-front in pink marble, which can still be seen to this very day.

By the beginnings of the 1920's W.W. Banting was rarely involved himself in conducting any funerals, except royal funeral occasions. The firm basically contracted out every service to other companies, however always ensuring the very best and costliest quality. A number of other top-ranking London undertakers looked to attract the "Banting" type of funeral practice however they were

never able to match the mastery of funeral rituals and ceremonies which was the hallmark of a Banting service.

In 1928 W.W. Banting was 71 years of age and it was time to retire. Upon his retirement the royal warrant was terminated. There were no Banting

decendents to continue the tradition of the "Banting Service." W. W. Banting never married and his brothers had died or moved. One Banting brother moved to Canada and his child became Dr. Frederick Grant Banting who later in 1923 won the Nobel Prize in Medicine for the discovery of insulin. The Banting Institute located on the campus of the University of Toronto is named in his honor, and for years the Canadian School of Embalming was headquartered in the Banting Institute building.

The long history of Banting conducting funerals for the crown was now at an end. A bid for the royal funerals was made by J. D. Field (who had done much of Banting's contract work) but in the end the royal warrant went to the better socially connected firm of J. H. Kenyon. Kenyon's were to hold the royal warrant for many years, and Michael Kenyon conducted Sir Winston Churchill's funeral in 1964. Today, however, the royal warrant has not been reissued.

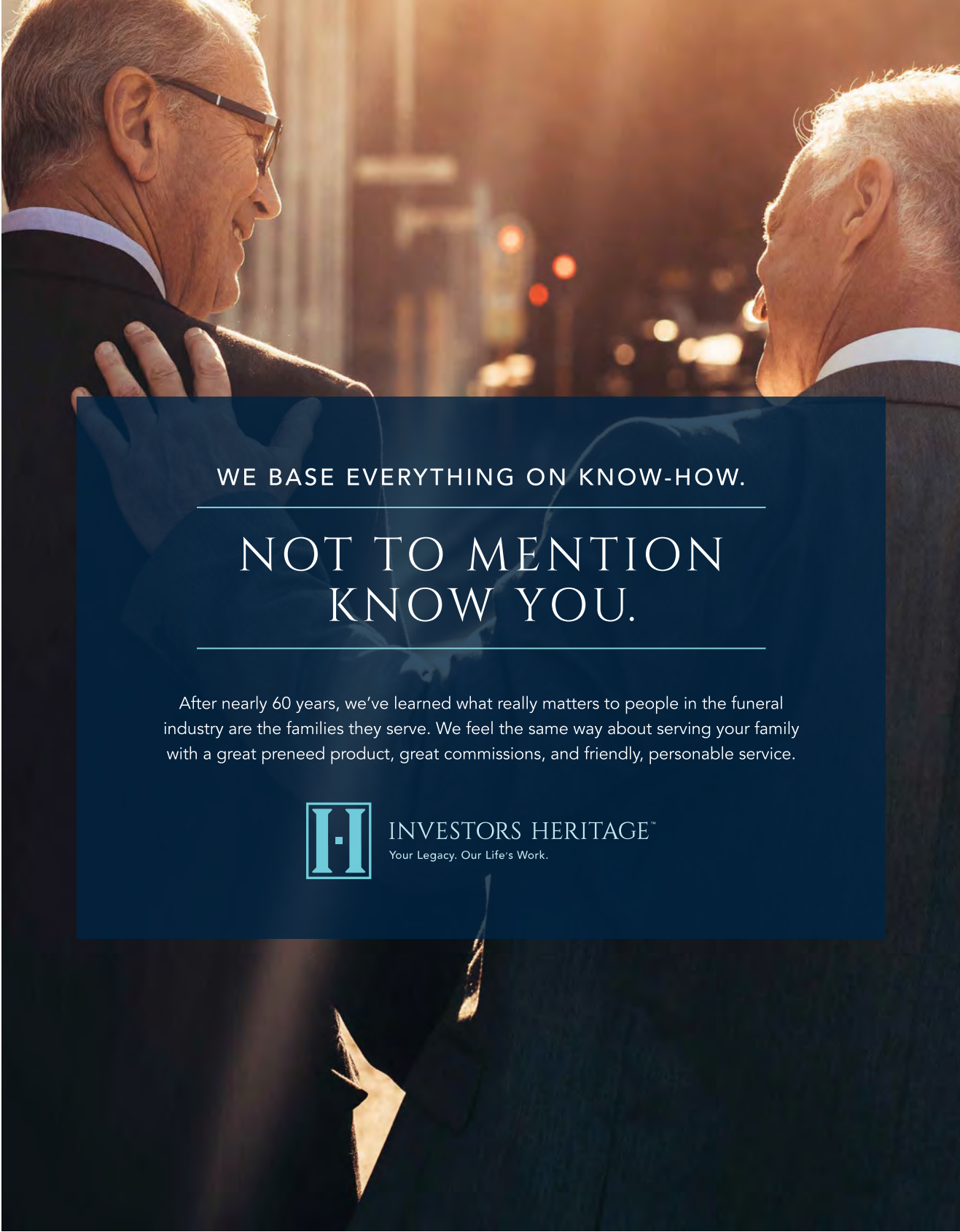
William Westbrook Banting died on December 9, 1932 at 158 West Hill, Wandsworth. The death certificate records one brother present and the cause of death as anuria and pulmonary infarct, and carcinoma of the bladder. His estate was valued at some 92,000 pounds. Mr. Banting's remains were deposited in the Kensal Green Cemetery in the Banting tomb on December 14 after a funeral service in the chapel of St. John the Evangelist, Notting Hill at 12 noon. Mr. Banting was described as a man of "independent means."

What a fascinating legacy! From funeral service to the royal family for nearly 300 years, to the creation of a diet which today is still used today the Banting family has certainly left their mark. Still no matter how impressive the funeral history of the Banting firm is, the true historic endurance for the survival of the old English name is and probably will always be the diet and also the possibility of suspicion that Dr. Atkins, rest his soul, just might have had a ghost writer!

A fitting end to this interesting story is found in the closing paragraph of William Banting's "Letter on Corpulence to the Public." It reflects Mr. Banting's hope for those who suffer from obesity.

"I have now finished my task and trust my humble efforts may prove to be good seed well sown, that will fructify and produce a large harvest of benefit to my fellow-creatures. I also hope the faculty generally may be led more extensively to ventilate this question of corpulence or obesity, so that instead of a few able practitioners, there may be hundreds distributed in the various parts of the United Kingdom. In such case, I am persuaded that these diseases will be very rare."





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NFDA Debuts New PSAs Promoting the Value of Funerals and Funeral Directors

For Immediate Release: August 19, 2019

Contact: Jessica Koth (NFDA), 262-814-1536,
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Brookfield, Wis. – The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) has debuted two new public service announcements (PSAs) created to educate families about the importance of meaningful funerals and the value of funeral directors. These new PSAs are part of NFDA's Remembering A Life consumer outreach and education initiative and are available for use by association members at no charge.

Individuals often have specific ideas about what they want at their funeral (or whether they even want a funeral), but who is the funeral ultimately for? How, if at all, should the needs of loved ones be considered when planning a service? In the "Funerals Are for the Living" PSA, we see two real families and a group of friends explore this and other questions.

When a member shares this PSA in his or her community, they will motivate family members and friends to get involved in the conversation and express their wants and needs as they begin the grieving process and inspire people who didn't want a funeral to reconsider their decision.

Funeral professionals know the value a funeral can provide to families as they begin the grief journey following the death of a loved one. Funeral directors also know the value they provide in creating a meaningful experience. It can, however, sometimes be difficult to express this to a family. The "Value of Funerals & Funeral Directors" PSA shares this message in an eloquent way. Thoughtful words and imagery beautifully communicate the healing power of funerals and the important role funeral directors play in guiding families through the process.

When an NFDA member shares this PSA in his or her community, they will encourage families to have meaningful funerals, inspire families to incorporate creative elements into funerals and educate families about the important role of funeral directors.

Both PSAs also encourage people to visit NFDA's consumer education site, www.RememberingALife.com to learn more about meaningful funerals and start the conversation. Two additional Remembering A Life PSAs will debut later this year.

These new PSAs complement the two others that made their debut during the 2018 NFDA International Convention & Expo. These PSAs, which targeted people who lose a loved one under tragic circumstances, encourage families to memorialize their loved ones, regardless of how they died.

When a someone dies of an overdose, it can lead to strong emotions, especially among children. The PSA "When a Parent Dies of an Overdose" shows that having a funeral gives the family, particularly children, an opportunity to remember their loved one and the good times they had.

Families may not always agree with the life decisions made by a loved one, especially if they involve illegal activity. The second PSA, "Remembering A Good Friend Who Made Bad Decisions," discusses the importance of coming together to reflect on a loved one's entire life history and remembering happier times.

NFDA is sharing all four PSAs with consumers on the www.RememberingALife.com website and social media sites. Consumers who, after viewing a PSA choose to visit www.RememberingALife.com, will find a wide range of information about planning a meaningful funeral. Consumers can also search for an NFDA-member funeral home using the "Find a Funeral Home" feature.

The PSAs are also available to NFDA members for use in the community, such as by posting them on a funeral home website, sharing them on social media, using them as part of community presentations or working with local or cable TV stations to run the spots as public service announcements on broadcast television. The PSAs may also, in certain circumstances, be appropriate to share with a family that is planning a service.

Funeral professionals can view the PSAs by visiting the NFDA website, www.nfda.org/psas. Association members who are interested in using any or all of the PSAs in the outreach efforts can find information about obtaining them on www.nfda.org/psas.

<https://www.nfda.org/>.



Retirement of Delores Wilson from Burial Services

Pictured left to right, Lisa Bohannon, Administrative Manager for the Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers and Burial Services; Delores Wilson, Regulatory Board Administrative Assistant 2 with Burial Services; and Robert Gribble, Executive Director for the Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers and Burial Services.

Delores Wilson was honored recently with a luncheon and plaque for her outstanding service and dedication to the Burial Services Section of the Department of Commerce & Insurance as a valued employee with 22 years of service. Ms. Wilson was employed at Burial Services from August 11, 1997 through August 31, 2019.



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Obituaries



Mr. Robert E. Garrett, father of Cindy Blalock, graduate of John A. Gupton Mortuary College, licensed funeral director and embalmer at Lea & Simmons Funeral Home, Bells Chapel.

Robert E. “DaddyBob” Garrett, age 67, passed away peacefully at his home in Friendship, TN on August 1, 2019 surrounded by his loving family.

Mr. Garrett was born in Chicago, IL on July 17, 1952 to the late Mr. Robert Francis “Jack” Garrett and Mrs. Estelle “Nuddie” Stallings Garrett. They moved to Friendship when he was in elementary school and after high school, met the love of his life at the skating rink. Mr. Garrett and Mrs. Wanda moved to Walnut Street in 1971, Home Sweet Home. He was many things, an adoring husband, loving father and a servant to all and his magical charisma caused him to become your immediate, lifelong friend. He was a hero, not only to his family, but to the ones that he helped, if it had not been for his fierce bravery and blind love for others. He was a giver, showing kindness to everyone he encountered. He was a mentor and a true man of character and integrity. His love for music and laughs continues with us today. His sense of humor was unlike any other and could brighten your day with just his sheer presence. He had a magic and a light that will be so greatly missed.

He obtained many titles during his life. He proudly served his country in the United States Marine Corp. He was a Deputy Sheriff for the Crockett County Sheriff’s Department, worked as a route salesman for Coca Cola, Eagle Brand Chips and Jack’s, wrestled under the name of “Bobby Rich” -Tommy “WildFire” Rich’s twin brother, was the manager of AutoZone in Dyersburg, TN and retired from the Crockett County School System. He was always a Mr. Fix It and amazed us all with his wit, pure common sense and craftsmanship.

Mr. Garrett was preceded in death by his parents; his infant brother: Robert Francis Garrett Jr. and his brother in laws: Finis Windell Baker and Tommy Sawyer.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Mrs. Wanda Gail Sawyer Garrett of Friendship; his two daughters: Cin-

dy L. Blalock (Darron) of Four Points and Crystal Ellington (Shane) of Bells; his sister: Martha Lane Garrett Baker of Frog Jump; one sister in law: Sherry Daniel (Phillip) of Munford; four grandchildren: Robert Andrew Pace and James Conner Pace of Brownsville, Dacey Renee Ellington of Bells and Brilee Jane Blalock of Four Points. He leaves numerous nieces and nephews, cousins and a host of friends. And we can’t forget Daddy’s Baby Girl, “Lulu”.



Joe Bill Barlow, 83 of Murfreesboro, was called home to be with the Lord on Monday August 19, 2019. He was born in Hawkins County, TN to the late Homer and Effie Barlow, and was also preceded in death by his wife, Nancy Slemons Barlow.

Mr. Barlow had served in the US Army 101st Airborne Group at Fort Campbell, Kentucky and in Japan where he was a paratrooper and medic. After his military service Mr. Barlow joined Berry Funeral Home in Knoxville where he learned to fly Berry’s Air Ambulance. He was a 1958 graduate of John A. Gupton College and had worked in funeral service with Southern Casket and Batesville Casket Companies for over 50 years. Mr. Barlow was a member of First United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro and was member of Burlington Masonic Lodge of 60 years.

He is survived by nephews, Larry Carpenter, and Steve Overton; nieces Betty Shelton, Teresa Conley and Cynthia Shank; brother and sister-in-law, Harold and Shirley Overton.

The family wishes to express special thanks to Joe and Nancy’s neighbors Butch and Janie Campbell, and caregivers, and Avalon Hospice for their many acts of love and kindness.





Hal Q. Laymon
JANUARY 22, 1926 –
AUGUST 18, 2019

Hal Q. Laymon, 93, retired General Manager of Memphis Wilbert Vault, passed away Sunday, August 18, 2019 after a long illness. He was a native of St. Louis and a veteran of World

War II in the Philippines. During his service in the Army Air Corp, he became interested in flying and, in addition to being a licensed funeral director in Louisiana and Mississippi, he was a commercial pilot and instructor, having logged many thousands of hours flying remains back to the south from locations all over the U.S. He was a co-owner of Jackson and Tupelo Mississippi Wilbert Vault. During this time, he became president of the three funeral sales clubs of Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi. A member of First Baptist Church of Olive Branch, he taught the Brotherhood Sunday School class for many years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Annie Laura Barker Laymon. Hal is survived by his son, Quentin Laymon and his daughter, Laura Mullins. He is also survived by his nieces and nephews, Dianne Winn (Ralph), of Chesterfield, MO, Janice Blackwell, of Buffalo, NY, David Hergert, of Boston, MA, and Deborah Laymon, of Coudersport, PA.



Wilma D. Marcum,
mother of R. Kent
Marcum, Rose Mortu-
ary, Owner and Funer-
al Director

Wilma D. Marcum, age 87, of Knoxville, formerly of Lake City, TN went to be with the Lord on Friday August 30, 2019.

She was a devoted and loving mother, grandmother, and great grandmother. She was a long-time member of Main Street Baptist Church, Lake City. She began her teaching career in Kentucky and was a longtime dedicated teacher at Lake City Elementary School before retiring after over forty-five years of service. She was preceded in death by husband, Kenneth E. Marcum; parents, Robert and Myrtle Duncan; and sister, Roberta Farris. She is survived by son and daughter-in-law, Kent and Cathy Marcum; daughters and sons-in-law, Louann and Dale Caldwell, and Lecia and Dennis Moreau; grandchildren, Jonathan (BJ) Caldwell,

Whitney (Justin) Hunthorp, Drew (Katy) Marcum, Kendale (Nathan) Karch, Courtney Hernandez (Eluid) Flores, Caroline Moreau, and Corey Moreau; four great grandchildren, Mesac, Landon, Parker, and Payci; special nieces and nephews, Frances Kraemer, Robert Farris, and Ellen Loudermilk; and several nieces and nephews, and friends.



Bennett Weatherford – Owner
and Licensed Funeral Director
and Embalmer of Weatherford
Mortuary

Arthur Bennett Weatherford, 71, of Oak Ridge, passed away Thursday, August 29, 2019 at Methodist Medical Center after a courageous battle with myelodysplasia syndrome.

He was born October 16, 1919 in Knoxville, TN, the son of Ralph Herbert Weatherford and Vivian Lucille Bennett Weatherford.

Bennett graduated from the Kentucky School of Mortuary Science in 1968 and immediately joined in the family business, Weatherford Mortuary with his mom and dad.

He was an avid fisherman with crappie being his favorite catch and meal! Before neck, back and shoulder surgeries, he also loved the game of golf and spending time with his friends visiting golf courses all around the area, Alabama and the Dominican Republic. He was known for his quick wit and sense of humor.

He was a member of Robertsville Baptist Church, Faith Masonic Lodge #756, Kerbel Temple and Scottish Rite.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by brother, Paul Weatherford and niece Morgan Paul.

He is survived by his wife of 51 years and partner in business, Sandra Morgan Weatherford; Sons, Chad Weatherford and fiancé Jessica Bowman and Erik Weatherford and wife Julie; 2 granddaughters whom he adored, Esther Weatherford, a freshman at ORHS and Ursula Weatherford, a fourth-grader at Linden Elementary School; sisters, Joy Katz and Ralphine Weatherford; and step-father H. D. Minish. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews, including special nephew, Brandon Paul, of Lithia Springs GA whom he helped to raise.

Memorials can be made to Robertsville Baptist Church, 251 Robertsville Road, Oak Ridge, TN 37830.





Ronald O. Hill, co-owner of Mynatt Funeral Home, 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.

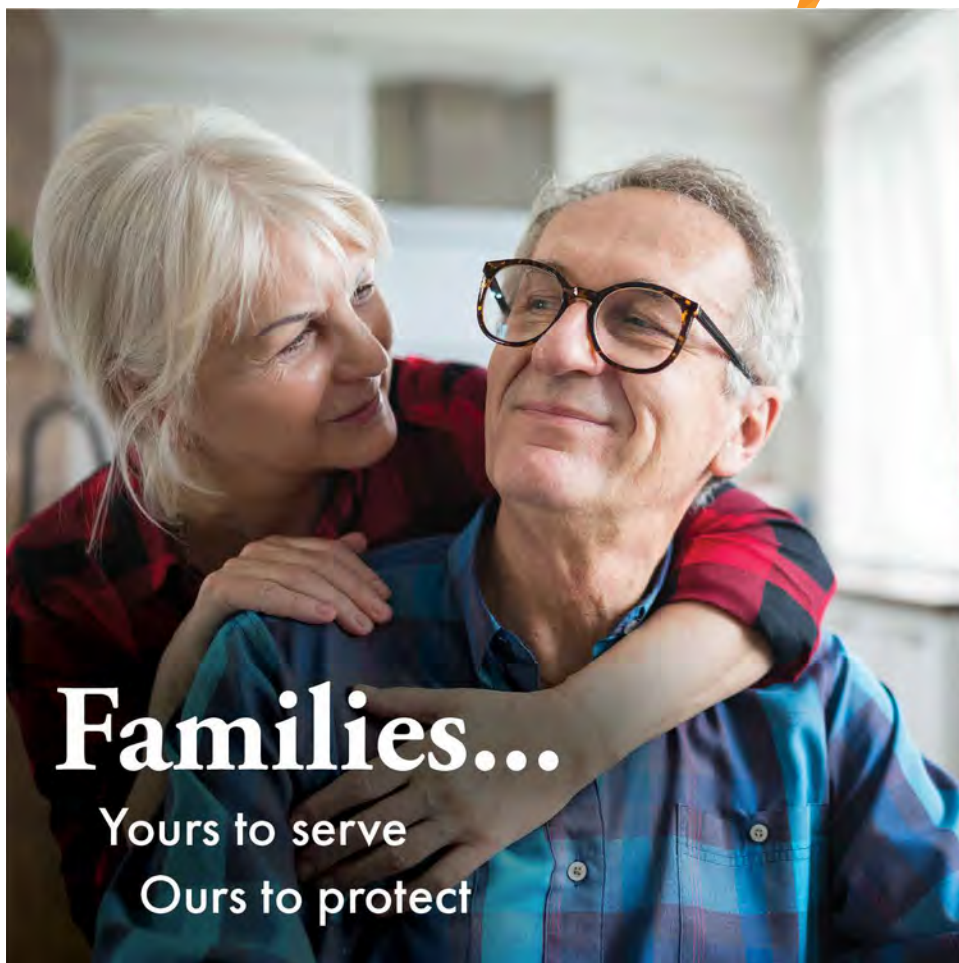
Ronald O. Hill, age 77, of Halls Crossroads, passed away while surrounded by his family on Sunday, September 1, 2019.

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.

In lieu of flowers, please consider making a donation in Ronald's memory to Myasthenia Gravis research at myasthenia.org or to the Dementia Society of America at dementiasociety.org.

Announcement by Mynatt Funeral Home, Halls Chapel www.mynattfh.com.



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2019

2019 TFDA FALL DISTRICT MEETINGS:

WEST DISTRICT

THURSDAY, September 26, 2019
Jackson Country Club, Jackson, TN

EAST DISTRICT

MONDAY, September 30, 2019
Chop House, Kodak, TN

MIDDLE DISTRICT

TUESDAY, October 1, 2019
Wilson County Expo, Lebanon, TN

**TFDA MEMBERS \$50 TO ATTEND BOTH
SEMINAR AND DISTRICT MEETING
DINNER INCLUDED**

EDUCATIONAL SESSIONS:

3:00PM – 4:00PM

**Funeral Service Education:
“Funeral Director and Grief”
Presenter: Mr. Todd Van Beck
(Approved for 1 CEU)**

4:00PM – 6:00PM

**“Active Shooter in the Workplace,
What Funeral Directors Need to Know.”
Presenter: Mr. Chad Christian,
Former U.S Secret Service Agent,
Presidential Detail
(Approved for 2 CEU’s)**

REGIONAL DISTRICT MEETING

(Approved for 2 CEU’s)

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

COST FOR TFDA MEMBERS ATTENDING DISTRICT MEETING ONLY:

East District \$30

Middle District \$30

West District \$40

**October 2019 – 2020 Statement of Dues go out
for TFDA Membership**

OCTOBER 25 – 30, 2019

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May 31 – June 1, 2020

**TFDA/TFSSC 117th Annual Convention,
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2019 Citizen of the Year Award



Tony Sowell of Oakes & Nichols Funeral Home in Columbia was named the winner of the 2019 Citizen of the Year Award at Thursday night's Best of Maury County presentation.

Sowell was handed his award by Columbia Fire Chief Ty Cobb, the inaugural winner in 2018. Other finalists were Maury County Woman of the Year Juli Beck, the

late Columbia attorney Jerry Colley, local promoter Gayla Grant and Parker's Project founder Sondra Martin.

"Tony personifies the reason we created the award in 2018," Daily Herald publisher Keith Ponder said. "The honor recognizes selfless contributions to the community." Sowell and his sister, Bunny, bought Oakes & Nichols in the 1980s. In his role as president, Tony runs the business, from helping families with final arrangements to keeping abreast of advances in the industry and the latest regulations.

"I have been involved in the funeral business all of my life; we grew up in it," the 70-year-old Sowell said. "We have spent our lives working for other people. It is what we do."

Sowell started going on ambulance calls when he was 12. Oakes & Nichols got out of the ambulance business but has continued to be one of the region's top funeral homes.

"We always make sure people are treated with kindness and dignity," Sowell said. "We do not try to rush things through. We try to take care of folks."

The Citizen of the Year was one of four headline awards selected by Daily Herald readers and announced by the newspaper during the presentation at Life Care of Columbia.

Southern Tre restaurant won two of those four awards — one for Best All-Around Restaurant and one for Small Business of the Year.

First Farmers & Merchants Bank was selected as the Best Place to Work in Maury County.

The Best of Maury County awards were a mix of perennial and first-time winners. Twenty businesses won the first time, including Vanh Dy's, Dannie Holmes Catering, Hearty Hog, Hattie Jane's, Southern Tre, Bistro 822, Westbury House, Zion Christian Academy, Jill Brooks Beauty

Bar, Center of Hope, Paws on the Duck, Roto Rooter, The B's Trees, Revolution Ink, Tallgrass Meat Co., Piggly Wiggly, Mum's the Word, Baxter's Mercantile, Muletown Rec and Jones & Lang.

Belk kept its streak alive for having won an award all 16 years of the presentation. This year, it won for Best Women's Clothing. T.J. Maxx won for Best Department Store.

First Farmers has won 15 times for Best Bank and Best Place for a Mortgage.

Daily Herald Advertising Director Craig Duncan said more than 140,000 votes were cast in the Best of Maury County, breaking last year's record of 107,000. Duncan said when the awards were held for the first time 16 years ago, he never expected such a reader response.

"The event has grown bigger every year," Duncan said. "We love to honor local businesses and success. The Best of Maury County's popularity allows businesses to truly say they're the best in the eyes of The Daily Herald's readers."

The dining room at Life Care has been big enough to host the event for nine years. But next year, the presentation will move to another venue.

Sowell's wife and son attended the awards with him. The honor was a surprise as it was last year for Chief Cobb.

"He has no idea he's won Citizen of the Year," his son, Matt, said.

Oakes & Nichols won the honor for Best Funeral Home, which Sowell knew his business had won in advance.

"He has dedicated his entire life to the community," Matt Sowell said before the event. "He is very compassionate and caring."

Reprinted from: James Bennett is editor of The Daily Herald

An advertisement for Lamcraft Inc. featuring a large image of a catalog and a smaller image of a product box. The text reads: **\$UMMER \$ALE**, **Nearly every item in our catalog!**, **Sale ends 9/30/19. Price will be reflected in shopping cart online.**, **LAMCRAFT INC.**, **Toll free 800-821-1333 www.lamcraft.com**. The catalog cover shows various products and includes the text "Our catalog now includes all products" and "Lamcraft 2018-19 Quality Lamination Products & Services".

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Breakfast Rotary.
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Jon Parrott!**

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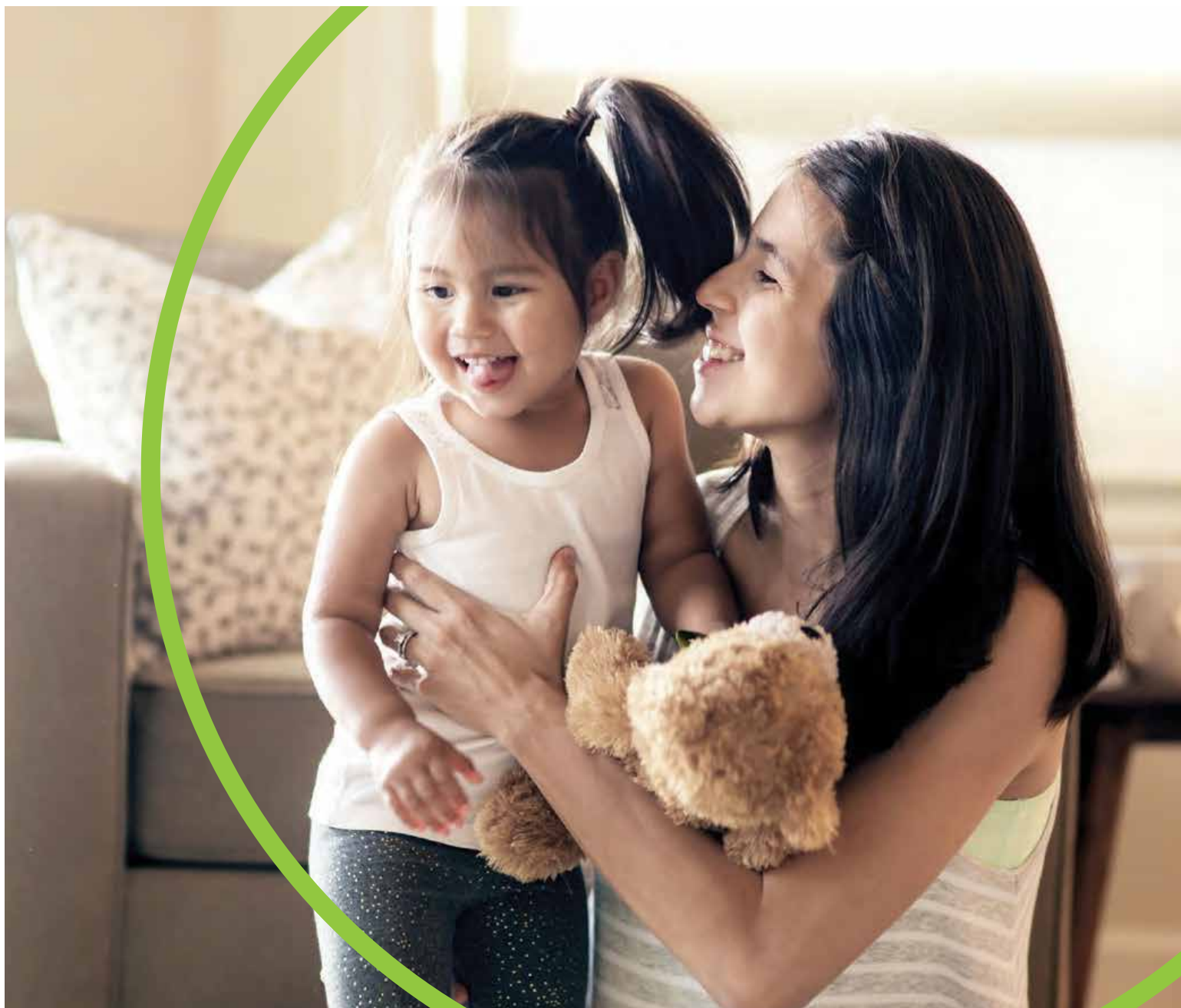
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