

THE THANA GRAM

New Years 2019

Official Publication of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

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Annual
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Justin Jeffers • TFDA Board of Directors



The cold weather that we have been experiencing already has my mind looking forward to warmer weather. Summer months and our 2019 Convention is just around the corner and I hope that all of you are as excited as I am to have the opportunity to turn this years convention into a family adventure that we will remember for many years to come. The convention is not just a time to get the required CEU credits and learn about the latest products but its a chance to form bonds and relationships with fellow funeral care providers that will last a lifetime. Its also

a chance for families to meet and share experiences that only the families of a funeral director can truly understand. Sevierville, Pigeon Forge and Gatlinburg truly have something to offer everyone.

District meetings are also just around the corner. District meetings are the best opportunity for you to meet with the leadership of TFDA, find out what is going on in the association, and voice any concerns that you have. Its also a good chance to become more involved in TFDA. I hope to see each of you at district meetings as I make my final lap around the state as your president.

These past six months have taught me a great deal about how much effort and hard work go into making the TFDA operate. I want to thank each and everyone of you for supporting what we do.

If I can be of any assistance to anyone, please never hesitate to reach out to me.

Serving you as you serve others,

Justin Jeffers



**2019 TFDA/TFSSC
116th Annual Convention
June 2 – 3, 2019
Sevierville Convention Center
Sevierville, TN**

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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2019: NEW YEAR OBSERVATIONS

By Todd Van Beck

Over the years of my career I have noticed a very positive trend. Funeral directors by and large are able to juggle many hats in their lives, and juggle them successfully. In fact it has been my experience that funeral directors, in general, are some of the most dedicated family people and professional people I have ever known, and this is not pie in the sky.

I attended a District Funeral Directors meeting when one grumpy funeral director, complaining about all the changes our profession is experiencing made this bold statement, “We have done it to ourselves and we are our own worst enemies.” I was silent until that statement was made, and I spoke my piece. I said in a gentle and non-aggressive fashion that the man was wrong. I told him that I don’t know a group of women and men who work harder in the vineyard than the women and men that make of the rank and file in our beloved profession.

I have decided that it is just a blessing to be a funeral director.

Blessings – what a wonderful word. In fact it is such a powerful word that the church has been teaching and preaching about the subject of blessings for two thousand years, and the church shows no signs of slowing down in addressing, interpreting, and reminding thousands, millions, billions of people what blessings truly are, and that a simple life lesson needs to be learned and learn well by everyone on earth concerning blessings just – COUNT THEM.

I have thought about the blessings of being a funeral director long and hard, and feel the need to share these simple thoughts.

I have concluded that funeral directors are just different from most everybody else on the earth – and thank God we are different.

Funeral directors are different. I don’t know of many vocations where its members are so willing to invest their emotions in the lives of the people they serve than funeral directors and then go home and invest their attention and emotions to their family.

I actually cannot think of another profession where the professional gets as emotionally and hence personally involved in such an intense way with the people who seek out their services than funeral directors.

Yes, every profession will claim this intense relationship but when the subject of death is involved I think many other professionals prefer to make a hasty retreat and let funeral directors pick up the ball and create the relationship, and THAT IS A GOOD THING. This is a real blessing for us and for the community we serve. Funeral directors do not run away from death.

As we begin 2018 I thought I would contribute a few thoughts about our beloved profession, and what a blessing it is to be a small part of the noble work of funeral service. In fact I can say

in all honesty that I have never done a day’s work in my life – it has all been utterly fascinating.

What I would like to submit to the readers are observations on the following attributes of the typical Great American Funeral Director. They are: Caretaker of the Dead, Caregiver to the Living, Compassionate Adviser, Administrator, and Community Leader and last but certainly not least our private family life at home.

CARETAKER OF THE DEAD

When a human being dies, they are unable to defend their own dignity and honor. I believe one of the most significant roles that members of our beloved profession perform is defending the honor and dignity of the dead. Just because a human being is dead does not mean that they are not still a person. Our profession indeed becomes sacred when a bereaved family entrusts us with their precious and beloved loved one. This is no idealized pie-in-the-sky thinking, in our profession it is a blunt daily reality and we excel at maintaining this high water mark standard of care and service.

CAREGIVERS TO THE LIVING

In my opinion the second major role that funeral professionals perform is being a wise and careful caregiver to the living. Funeral directors hold an impressive record of consistence in pledging their time, talent and energies in fulfilling the call to duty and in fulfilling the expressed desires of the bereaved family.

COMPASSIONATE ADVISOR

Grief is perhaps the most overwhelming emotion experienced by a human being. When a significant person dies funeral directors calmly minister to the emotions, confusion and chaos even in the most tragic and distasteful circumstances.

COMPETENT ADMINISTRATOR

I would like to suggest that another term for funeral director could easily be “organizational specialist.” This applies to both administering the funeral home, ministering to the needs to the families we are privileged to serve and meeting the needs and responsibilities of home life. Other professions have similar responsibilities which require the ability to multi-task – but not many.

FAMILY LIFE AND THE FUNERAL DIRECTOR

One of the great blessings in my career, which is now already long and has not been totally uneventful is that I have traveled. I have traveled many places across the globe. I have made this simple observations: Funeral directors are basically the same across the globe. Funeral directors generally are extremely similar in their personality make up. The vast majority of them want the same things in life, whether they are from American, New Zealand, Europe or Asia.

They want to feel contented, satisfied, happy, calm and cheerful. They want to be able to think for themselves and make their own decisions and not be dominated by fear, anger, jealousy, stress and worries. They also look to make sincere and long-lasting friends and without question funeral directors globally understand the problems and emotional needs of others and tries to be considerate and courteous in their dealings with others. To be sure there are exceptions to my observations, and I am no Pollyanna, but this has definitely been my experience. Funeral directors are just good people.

With this said I would like to end by sharing my observations in my personal relationships with thousands of funeral director by describing what I have experienced in being witness to how the funeral director interacts in his or her private family life.

I have broken bread, been an overnight quest with hundreds of funeral directors, and I have put together a list of eight characteristics that describe what I have experienced. This certainly is not an exhaustive list, but it includes the most significant traits I have seen in the households of funeral directors, here goes.

1. The members of the family are committed to one another.
2. Even though people don't die by appointment the funeral director spends time together with his or her family and friends.
3. There exists interpersonal communication – not perfect communication, but communications exists.
4. The family turns inward during times of crisis.
5. The family express affirmation and encouragement often.
6. The family share a spiritual commitment.
7. The family trusts one another and values the trust that has been earned.
8. The family enjoy freedom and grace.

No family is perfect, but given the manifest and unpredictable schedules and challenges that every funeral professional on earth faces, it is an admirable testimony to the basic kind character of the funeral director that makes this such a blessed profession.

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Family & Children's Service

As funeral directors, you provide support to grieving families and help individuals that might have lost their loved one suddenly to tragic circumstances like homicide, suicide, illness or other sudden death. We understand that offering support is extremely important, so we have dedicated our services to individuals that are coping with loss. The Family & Children's Service offers counseling services; clinical therapists are located at FCS and other community-based locations and provide individual and family counseling services to those who need them. In addition to counseling services, we have a crisis line which provides free and confidential telephone counseling and support to anyone experiencing a crisis, 24 hours a day, and seven days a week. And for the families that are needing ongoing support, we offer free confidential support groups for "Survivors of Suicide Loss" in different locations.

If you or you may know someone that is struggling with loneliness or tough emotions; please have them contact our crisis line at 615-244-7444. The benefit to calling our crisis line is to have a caring crisis specialist available to provide you with undivided attention to listen to what is on your mind. Sometimes talking about what is on your mind helps you relieve stress, work out problems that have been weighing on you, or helps to come up with some coping skills to use again as needed. Our trained crisis specialists can take action steps with someone who may be suicidal to ensure safety. The Crisis specialist can recognize warning signs of suicide such as feeling like a burden to others, feeling hopelessness, or experiencing an unbearable pain. They can keep people safe by reducing their access to lethal means and connect them to resources and then follow up to see how they are doing. Our mission is to connect individuals and families to hope, to healing, and to one another. We are here to assist, and together we can help people get through life's most difficult times. Feel free to check out our website for additional information at fcsnashville.org.

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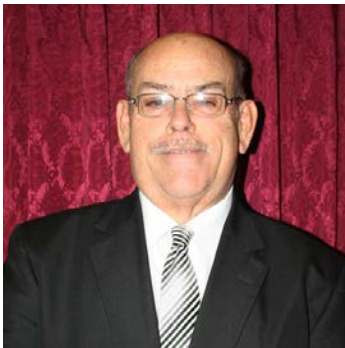
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Matthews Aurora Funeral Solutions, a TFDA endorsed provider, recently announced that Bill Hudson has returned to the company as Vice President. After spending the last 2 years in acquisitions for Carriage, Bill will again provide his leadership to Matthews Aurora and focus on both Strategic and National Accounts. Bill said, "I am excited to return to Matthews Aurora and look forward to assisting our representatives, customers and associations by providing solutions to both retain and grow their businesses during an evolving time in our profession."

Bill is a 1991 graduate of John A Gupton College, a Past President of TFSSC and Treasurer of the Gupton Alumni Board. Under his leadership at both Aurora and Matthews Aurora, he has provided over 20+ years of support to the members of TFDA, TFSSC and TFSI. We welcome back Bill in his new role and look forward to the overwhelming support he brings to our organizations. If you have any questions about how Matthews Aurora can provide solutions to your business, Bill can be reached at (270) 366-4546 or bhudson@auroracasket.com



Great News!

For those unaware, Mr. Garry Hood, 2010-2011 TFDA Past-President, and owner of Hood Funeral Home in Crossville, has been battling kidney issues. Garry has been taking dialysis treatments several times weekly for the better part of five years.

After the nearly five years of progressive setbacks, Christmas of 2018 provided a gift nothing short of a miracle. Garry was informed a compatible donor had been found and he was to be scheduled for transplant surgery. The surgery went well and Garry was home shortly after Christmas.

TFDA would like to wish Garry a speedy recovery and offer our congratulations to all the Hood family; miracles do happen!



Prayers Needed

Mr. Art Pickle, TFDA Past President 1979 – 80, fell and broke his hip. He had surgery on January 23, 2019.

Please pray for a quick recovery.

Art is not online but well wishes can be sent to:

Art Pickle
913 Brittany DeAnn Lane
Knoxville, TN 37934
Phone: 865-675-5170

UPDATE: Art is doing well and in good spirits. He would love to hear from you all.



Sarah D. Haynes Retires after 41 Years

Sarah Dunnivant Haynes has been with London Funeral Home and Cornersville Funeral Home since July 5, 1977 until December 3, 2018. She is a graduate of Marshall County High School. She serves both funeral homes as office manager, at-need, and preneed counselor. Sarah received her funeral directors license in 1988 and is, also, a licensed preneed sales agent.

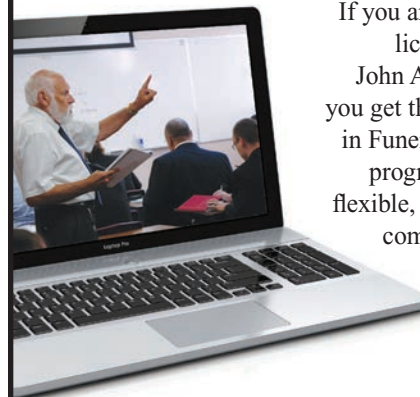
She is a member of Cornersville First Baptist Church where she teaches an adult Sunday school class. She has a daughter, son, grandson and granddaughter.

She started working at a local flower shop and Aubrey Duncan needed help at the funeral home back in 1977, he ask Sarah if she would come to work for him, and she did. After some time Sarah decided that she enjoyed working at the funeral home so much that she not only got her funeral directors license but also, a licensed preneed sales agent.

In a conversation with former funeral home owner, Aubrey Duncan, he said that they worked so well together. For so many years working together at the funeral home, it is like you begin to know what the other is thinking.

Congratulations Mrs. Sarah Haynes for your many years of service!

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Chaney Lowe,
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Resaca, Georgia
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Obituaries

Nancy Slemons Barlow, age 83, of Murfreesboro, passed away December 6, 2018. A native of Bull's Gap, Tennessee, she was the daughter of the late Hugh Lee and Irene Hedden Slemons. Mrs. Barlow is survived by her husband, **Joe Barlow, a former Batesville Casket Representative**; a sister Shirley Overton and her husband Harold of Hendersonville, TN, and a nephew, Steve Overton of California.

Mrs. Barlow was a member of First United Methodist Church of Murfreesboro.



Larry Dale Nave, 70, passed away Monday, January 14, 2019 at his residence in Gilbertsville, KY.

Larry was born July 5, 1948 in Sevierville, TN and was preceded in death by his parents, Elridge R. and Doris Cheatham Nave.

He was a **former owner of Nave Funeral Homes**; a graduate of Houston County High School and **John A Guppton Mortuary College** and a U.S. Army Vietnam Veteran; member of Wisdom Masonic Lodge and Al Menah Shrine.

Survivors include his wife, Julia Gregory Nave; daughter, Lucibeth Nave Mayberry and husband Brian; sons, Beau Nave and wife Suzanne, Jonathan Fleet and wife Dana; brother, Tony Nave and wife Barbara; sister Rissa Nave Larson and husband Ed; grandchildren, Mac, Lexie and Lucas.

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A memorial donation was made in the name of

Mr. Charles McNeeley by Karnes & Son Funeral Home, Dyer, TN

Tammy Lynn Haley, 55, of Collierville, passed unexpectedly from this life Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at her home. She was born September 12, 1963 in Dallas, TX to the late Buddy and Nelda Hollie. She was a graduate of Harding Academy of Memphis and attended Christian Brothers University. She worked in human resources for Poag Lifestyle Centers and was a member of the Society for Human Resource Management. She was a member of the Germantown church of Christ.

Tammy is survived by her loving husband; Tharen Haley, her daughter; Hollie Barker, her son; Jake (Jessica) Barker, two stepsons; Stuart Haley, Forrest (Katie) Haley and her sister and brother in law; Debbie and Philip Faulkner. Memorials can be made to the Page Robbins Adult Day Care Center, 1961 South Houston Levee Rd. Collierville, TN 38017 901-854-1200. Online condolences may be made at www.ColliervilleFuneral.com

Tammy was the wife of Tharen Haley, TFDA Individual Member.

Mrs. Nettie Marie Conner Palmer – Age 81 of Nashville, TN. January 28, 2019. Preceded in death by parents, Charlie Paul & Rena Pearl Walton; husbands, John William “J.W.” Conner & Charles Alvin Palmer; and son, John Floyd Conner. Survived by children, Joyce (Ricky) Pratt, Richard (Margie) Conner, Terri (Jackie) Purcell & Lloyd (Julie) Conner; 6 grandchildren; 5 great grandchildren; and brother, Claude Vernon (Linda) Walton.

Mrs. Palmer is the mother of Terri Purcell, former Director of Admissions at John A. Guppton Mortuary College and mother-in-law to Jackie Purcell, General Manager of Nashville Wilbert Vault, also the mother of Lloyd Conner, long time employee of Nashville Wilbert.

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Mr. Kent Gamble is the father of Jeff Gamble, owner of Lynchburg Funeral Home in Lynchburg, TN.

Kent Roger Gamble, 80, of Belvidere, TN., departed this life on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at his residence.

Mr. Gamble was born in Huntland, TN on October 17, 1938 to the late J. W. Gamble and the late Oseline Kennedy Gamble. He graduated from Huntland High School in 1955 where he played football under the coaching of the late Shirley Majors. Mr. Gamble was a lifetime member of Hickory Grove Baptist Church and served as Chairman of the Deacons for many years. He taught the Men's Sunday School Class and previously the Wednesday Night Bible Study. He was the oldest surviving member.

Mr. Gamble was presently the owner of J. W. Gamble and Son, General Contractors. He and his father began their business in 1961, and it continues today, with his son, Ricky. He was known for the excellent quality of his workmanship and has built many commercial buildings and residential houses in Franklin County. He also enjoyed working on his farm and working his registered Charolais cattle. He will be remembered for his dedication to his family and his church.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his sister, Patricia Ann Gamble. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Bettye Soloman Gamble; sons, Ricky (Tammy) Gamble and Jeff (Sheri) Gamble, both of Belvidere; daughter, Pamela (Glen) Grant of Belvidere; four grandchildren, Adam (Jenny) Gamble of Murfreesboro, Rachel (Travis) Crossland of Belvidere, Wesley (Stacey) Gamble of Winchester, and Whitney (Timmy) Parks of Belvidere; three step-grandsons and three great grandchildren, Chloe, Matthew and Katy.

Memorial Donations may be made in his honor to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN. 38105.

Online condolences may be made at www.lynchburgfuneralhome.com.

Lynchburg Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.



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2019

TFDA 2019 Spring Seminar and District Meetings

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

EAST DISTRICT

MONDAY, March 11, 2019, Chop House, Chop House in
Kodak, TN @ Exit 407. 3609 Outdoor Sportsman Pl # 1,
Kodak, TN 37764 next to Bass Pro.

MIDDLE DISTRICT

TUESDAY, March 12, 2019, Puckett's Downtown Colum-
bia, TN 15 Public Sq, Columbia, TN 38401 (931) 490-4550

WEST DISTRICT

THURSDAY, March 14, 2019, Jackson Country Club, Jack-
son, TN

SEMINAR

3:00 PM – 6:00 PM “Effective Communication” Presented
by Todd Van Beck (approved for 3 CEU's)

DISTRICT MEETING

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM Discussion with the Medical Examiner
(approved for 2 CEU's)

COST FOR TFDA MEMBERS
ATTENDING DISTRICT MEETING ONLY :
East District \$30
Middle District \$30
West District \$40

June 2-3, 2019
2019 TFDA/TFSSC

116th Annual State Convention
Sevierville Convention Center, Sevierville, TN

SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Interfaith Service with Todd Van Beck



12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

(Pending 2 ceu's)

Seminar – Nectar Ramiréz

Néctar Ramírez is director of sales for Cremation Options, the cremation products section of Batesville Company. Previously, she served as Batesville's director of market research and as a regional sales director. Prior to joining Batesville, Ramírez worked for Corporate Executive Board as a sales, marketing and human resources consultant to Fortune 500 companies.



2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

(Pending 2 ceu's)

Seminar – Mary Russell

Professional Development Manager for Matthews Aurora.

As a master facilitator and presenter, Mary provides engaging seminars for funeral service professionals across the United States. Through her positive personality and friendly demeanor, she creates a warm and inviting environment

for learning and encourages and empowers participants to return to their work environment highly motivated to serve their clients at a higher level.

4:30 pm Family Gathers for Memorial Service

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm TFDA/TFSSC Memorial Service

MARK YOUR CALENDARS, cont.

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

(Pending 1 ceu)

Grand Opening Exhibit Hall

Ice Cream Social inside Exhibit Hall

MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019

9:00 am – 11:00 am

TFDA Business Meeting

(Pending 2 ceu's)

10:00 am – 11:00 am

TFSSC Business Meeting

11:30 am Luncheon in the Exhibit Hall

(Pending 1 ceu's)



12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Seminar – Brent McNeeley

12:30 pm – 3:00 pm

Exhibit Hall Open

(Pending 1 ceu)

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Past President's Reception

6:00 pm Auction/Banquet

Honoring One of Our Own

We are very excited about the 2019 TFDA/TFSSC 116th Annual Convention at the Sevierville Convention Center!

We have been asked about the hotel reservations for the Wilderness at the Smokies Hotel and Resort. Please find the information below and more information about amenities available at the resort attached.

The convention theme is "Putting Families First...from the ones we love to the ones we serve". This convention is all about family. Please come and join us!

The Convention Committee needs your help. This is a new location for the convention. The exhibit hall very large and we would love to fill it up with exhibitors. If you know of a company that would be great to exhibit at the convention, please have them contact the TFDA office or they can go the TNFDA website at www.tnfda.org and download the 2019 Exhibit Packet.

With your help, we can make this a great convention!

Please make note of the room block deadline of MAY 1, 2019.

Do not hesitate contacting us if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Tennessee Funeral Directors Association

1616 Church Street

Nashville, TN 37203

615-321-8792

Dawn@tnfda.org



SAVE THE DATE

You Are Invited!



**2019 TNFDA/TFSSC
116th ANNUAL CONVENTION
Sevierville Convention Center
Sevierville, TN**

EXHIBITORS WELCOME

**Contact: Tennessee Funeral Directors Association
Phone: (615) 321-8792
Email: Dawn@tnfda.org**



SMOKIES BIGGEST WATERPARK RESORT

WILDERNESS AT THE SMOKIES WELCOMES: TN Funeral Directors Association

We would like to offer a special rate for your event:

Room Type:	Date(s) Available:	Nightly Rate(s)*
Double Queen w/ Sofa bed	June 1-4, 2019	\$159 Sat & \$129 Sun/Mon
Double Queen w/ balcony	June 1-4, 2019	\$159 Sat & \$129 Sun/Mon
King Room	June 1-4, 2019	\$159 Sat & \$129 Sun/Mon

Call 877.325.9453 to make your reservation and mention your **GROUP CODE: 53671**

The cut-off date to book your room is: **May 01, 2019.**

** Rates are not guaranteed for reservations past the above cut-off date or in the event that the block of rooms is filled.*

See our website for complete description of accommodations: WildernessattheSmokies.com. All guest rooms are subject to a \$18.99 per night Resort Fee and are subject to a 12.75% room tax unless proper tax exempt documentation is supplied and approved prior to check-in.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR RESERVATION:

- One nights deposit is due at the time of reservation for each room.
- Check in is at 4:00 pm - Check out at 10:30 am.
- Credit Card Verification & Photo ID required at check-in.
- All of our rooms are non-smoking.
- The Resort has a no pet policy.
- Room rates are quoted for up to 4 people in a standard room; each additional person beyond 4 will result in a charge of \$25 per person/per night.
- Every effort has been made to book your rooms as close

together as possible. The location of rooms blocked will be effected by the room style(s) requested and availability. A sleeping room block does not guarantee the sleeping rooms will be next door to each other. The resort reserves the right to make room changes prior to your arrival date, as needed.

- Reservations canceled 10 days prior to the arrival date will be charged a \$30 fee. Cancellations within 10 days of arrival will pay for the entire room rate.
- Any coupons, discounts, special rates, packages, or any other individual offers will not apply. Group rates may not be altered after original booking, regardless of hotel specials.



Wilderness at the Smokies | Located in The Great Smoky Mountains - Sevierville, TN

River Lodge | Stone Hill Lodge

(877) 325-9453     WildernessAtTheSmokies.com



RESORT INFO

Wilderness at the Smokies is a luxurious vacation and meeting destination.

Wilderness At The Smokies Waterpark Resort is a whole new concept in FUN for your Smoky Mountain vacation and the best part is that our waterparks are included with your stay!

LODGING:

Stone Hill Lodge, which is connected to the Sevierville Event Center and Salamander Springs outdoor waterpark, has over 240 gorgeous hotel rooms with several room-style options available. When staying at Stone Hill Lodge you receive access to all resort waterparks and amenities.

*Please Note: All rooms are Non-Smoking and Pets unfortunately are Not Allowed.

River Lodge, which is connected to the Wild WaterDome indoor waterpark and Lake Wilderness outdoor waterpark and the NEW Adventure Forest family adventure center, offers over 400 upscale multi-suite rooms capable of accommodating up to 15 guests. Featuring one and two bedroom suites, fully furnished kitchens, fireplaces and unlimited access to all our fabulous waterparks and amenities!

*Please Note: All rooms are Non-Smoking and Pets unfortunately are Not Allowed.

Wilderness Shuttles are available to resort guests every day of the year. Our heated or cooled shuttles will take you back and forth between lodges and waterparks whenever you'd like.

WATERPARKS:

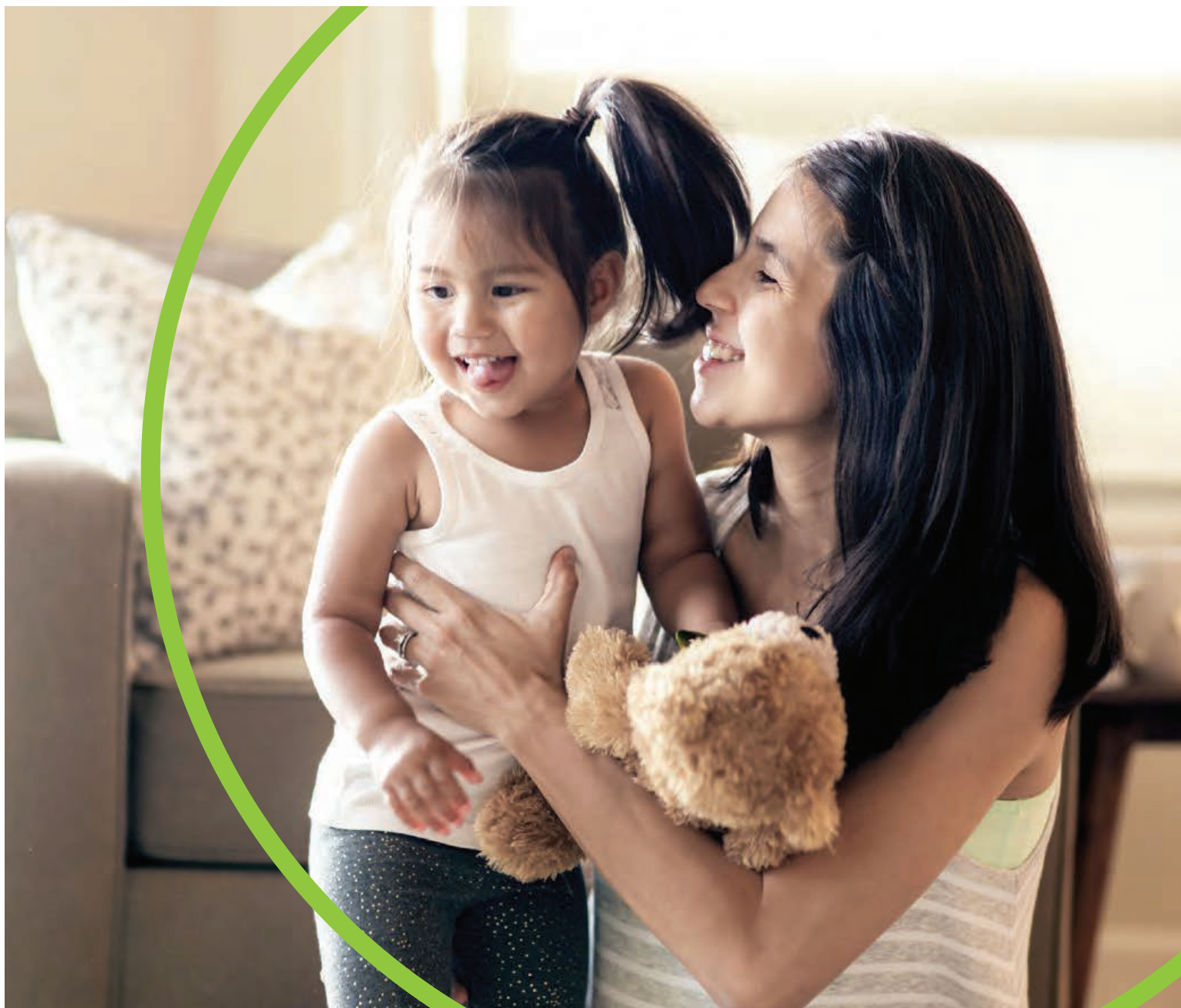
The **Wild WaterDome** is the **largest indoor waterpark in Tennessee!** It features a see-through roof that allows you to tan year-round. Inside this 66,000 square foot, state-of-the-art waterpark there is a wave pool, a multi-leveled water play feature, indoor surf rider, scream-tastic waterslides, and two family raft rides. Drench yourself in the splashtastic fun of **Salamander Springs outdoor waterpark** or **Lake Wilderness outdoor waterpark** (seasonal).

ADVENTURE FOREST:

Get wet and then GO WILD in the **NEW ADVENTURE FOREST**, family adventure center. Challenge your inner fears on Tree Top Towers, a 3 story ropes course or Mount Wild, a 25 ft rock climbing wall. Get your competitive spirit going by playing a game of laser tag in the multi-level arena, Fury in the Forest or maybe a round of black light mini-golf at Moonshine Run. Don't forget to enjoy the other great amenities like Copperhead laser maze, Howlin' Hound Dog Alley mini-bowling, Cubs Climbing Den interactive playhouse, Daredevils Drop spring ride or immerse yourself in the Mega Arcade with over 100 games! If dry outdoor fun is what you are looking for, remember Cataloochee Creek adventure mini-golf, just outside the Adventure Forest doors.

OTHER AMENITIES:

Take a stroll through any of our 3 gift/retail shops to pick out that perfect vacation souvenir or a gift for the ones back home who couldn't make it. Power through a workout in the fitness centers with clean, state of the art equipment. You may also choose to play a round of golf at **The Sevierville Golf Club** and then relax and enjoy **Hidden Trail Bar and Grill** or **The Thirsty Miner Restaurant**. If you don't want to miss any of the fun at the waterpark, you can always order your meal at any of our poolside snack bars!



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LendingUSA Partners with Tennessee Funeral Directors Association
NFDA-endorsed at-need financing provider endorsed by Tennessee's largest funeral
association.

The Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, through Tennessee Funeral Security, Inc,
has officially partnered with LendingUSA, the industry's leading provider of at-need
financing, it was announced today.

LendingUSA, the only at-need financing company to be endorsed by the NFDA, gives
funeral directors a point-of-sale solution for funeral payment, allowing every family to
apply for financing from anywhere and receive a pre-approval decision in just seconds.
As part of the partnership, TFDA members will receive an exclusive discount on all non-
prime loans funded through LendingUSA, enabling them to save potentially thousands of
dollars per year.

**Financial issues can be challenging for families to discuss at such a difficult time.
We feel LendingUSA presents a unique opportunity for families to consider, while
offering funeral homes a trustworthy resolution when payment options are limited.
TFDA is proud to advocate the services of USALending to all TFDA members. –**

Bob Batson, TFDA Executive Director.

TFDA has a membership of over 200 funeral homes throughout the state. They offer
several services to support funeral professionals in Tennessee, including educational and
career resources, industry advocacy at the state and federal level, and an annual
convention that is the largest gathering of funeral professionals statewide.

"We believe the funeral industry is changing, and families need new payment options,"
says Mike Testa, President of LendingUSA. "We're glad to be partnering with the
TNFDA to help their members take advantage of our unique service and ultimately better
serve their families."

About LendingUSA

LendingUSA is the #1 funeral financing solution in the country, and the only financing
option of its kind to be exclusively endorsed by the NFDA. Its mission is to redefine how
families pay for funerals, with pre-approval decisions in seconds and fast, direct funding
to funeral homes. Designed to help funeral home owners grow their business, it helps to
limit undercutting by competitors and the need for recourse or collections. For more
information on LendingUSA, funeral directors can call 866-851-7284 or sign up for a
free demo at <http://www.lendingusa.com/>.

About TFDA

The TFDA is the largest association dedicated to licensed funeral care professionals in
the state of Tennessee. TFDA facilitates the success and quality service of funeral
professionals through leadership, advocacy and education. For more information, visit
www.tnfda.org.

TFDA President

TFSI President

Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Inc.
1616 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 321-8792
Office@tnfda.org



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Connect with your families in a new way with BeRemembered.com[®], an online community where consumers record and share how they want to be remembered, even after they leave this life.

Help your families move from grieving to remembrance.
Contact your Matthews Aurora[™] Funeral Solutions Service Consultant to learn more.



M Matthews Aurora

FUNERAL SOLUTIONS

As the "Exclusive Premiere Partner," Matthews Aurora™ Funeral Solutions has been and will continue to support TFDA with our programs, partnership and our total solutions. We want to re-introduce our sales team in Tennessee. Our team has almost 150 years of funeral service experience that can help you not only survive these challenging times but thrive in an ever-changing market. We are here to serve you.



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 included 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.



David Akard III (423) 797-1704
dakard@auroracasket.com

I've been fortunate enough to be with Matthews Aurora for over 15 years now. I'm also a fourth-generation Funeral Director/Embalmer, having graduated from John A. Gupton in 1997. I mainly travel East TN and live with my wife, Rae and three kids in Bristol, 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) 559-4367
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 of 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.