

THE THANA GRAM

Spring 2019

Official Publication of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

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President's Message

Justin Jeffers • TFDA Board of Directors



Dear Fellow Funeral Professionals,

A couple of weeks ago I made my last trip across this great state for the district meetings for the final time as president of this wonderful association. I cannot begin to tell you how encouraged I was to see the attendance at each meeting and the interest in leadership shown by folks across the TFDA. We had new locations in East and Middle. I think everyone enjoyed the food and unique atmosphere at these new locations and I would like to thank board members Laura Cantrell and Mandi Marlin for their efforts to make that possible. I would also like to thank Robert Gribble for joining us at each stop along the way to tell us more about the current structure and activities of his office and allowing attendees an opportunity to ask questions. We also had speakers from Tennessee Donor Services and from the office of the Davidson County Medical Examiner's Office. It was definitely not a meeting that you wanted to miss.

I hope to see all of you this June in Sevierville at the 2019 TFDA/TFSSC Convention to be held the fun filled Wilderness at the Smokies and Sevierville Convention Center. The convention planning committee, Greg Rush, and Dawn Elliott have been hard at work to make sure this year will be a convention that you won't soon forget. I hope that everyone will take this opportunity to bring their family and turn this year's convention into a fun filled family event. My childhood is full of memories from the annual convention at the Opryland Hotel. I can remember walking around the exhibit hall floor like a tricker-treater on Halloween with numerous other kids from the funeral industry, many of which are still my friends to this day. The convention is an opportunity to come together as an industry and form relationships that can last a lifetime. I have always said that no one knows what you do on a day to day basis like a fellow funeral director. To me that is what this association is truly all about, relationships.

This year has flown by and while no one can prepare you for what your year as president of this association will be like, I would not trade the experience for anything. The TFDA is a lot like life, the more you put into it, the more you will get out of it. I have truly given my all to this association this year but in return I have had experiences, gained knowledge, and developed friendships that I will treasure for the rest of my life.

In closing, I want to tell you that you are in good hands. The upcoming leadership in this association are some of the finest and hard working men and women that I have ever had the pleasure of knowing. They have worked diligently this year, attendance has been incredible at every board meeting, and the ideas and vision that they bring to the table leaves me overwhelmed with excitement for what lies ahead.

Serving You as You Serve Others,

Justin Jeffers

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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2017-2018 TFDA Board of Directors



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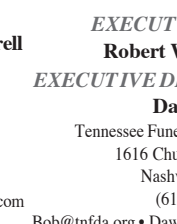
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2019 TFDA/TFSSC Memorial Service
Sunday, June 2, 2019
Sevierville Convention Center

What a great honor for our association to participate in celebrating the lives of our deceased loved ones who have left us this past year.

Please contact the TFDA office if there is a loved one not listed that should be included. Phone (615) 321-8792 or by email to Rosemary Harrison, Memorial Service Chairperson, rosemary.mc@gmail.com

Honored at the 2019 TFDA/TFSSC Memorial Service

Ed Morelock

Margaret Louise Schubert Solomon

Mr. Donnie Lynn Bible

Mr. Bobby C. Purdom

James "Jack" C. Ramsay

Nancy Slemons Barlow

Mr. Gene L. Widener

Reverend Fred L Gregg, Sr.

Frederick E. "Fred" Caustic

Larry Dale Nave

Glenda Gribble

Tammy Lynn Haley

Bernice Marie Cantwell Stevens

Nettie Marie Conner Palmer

John "Richard" Hill, Jr.

Kent Roger Gamble

Robert A. Shelton

James Page "Jim" Vickers

Joseph A. "Joe" Walker, Sr.

Ms. Helen Elizabeth "Betty" Bales

Mr. Charles E. McNeeley

Mr. Frank Myers, Jr.

Bennie M. Scott

Mr. Paul Nichols

Congress Acts to Support Veterans

NFDA and its members will advocate for a bill that would improve death benefits for veterans

Brookfield, Wis. – The Burial Rights for America's Veterans' Efforts (BRAVE) Act of 2019 (H.R. 497/S. 598) has been introduced in the United States Senate and House of Representatives. The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) urges the 116th Congress to pass this important legislation, which would ensure veterans are not penalized due to their circumstance at the time of death or where they die.

"Funeral directors like me assist families with paying tribute to veterans who honorably served our country," said Chuck Bowman, CMSP, CFSP, CCO, president of NFDA. "Passing the BRAVE Act will make certain veterans are treated equally and will help ensure they can be buried in a manner befitting their sacrifice. My National Funeral Directors Association colleagues and I wholeheartedly support this bipartisan legislation."

The BRAVE Act will improve existing death benefits for veterans who meet certain eligibility requirements. It helps ensure that non-service connected deaths are treated equally, regardless of where a veteran dies, and makes certain that death benefits are indexed for inflation, alleviating the need for further adjustments from Congress.

- Current: \$2,000 death funeral benefit for a service-connected disability
- The BRAVE Act will index the benefit for inflation
- Current: \$780 funeral benefit for a non-service-connected death in a VA facility
- There will be no change to this benefit; it is already indexed for inflation
- Current: \$300 funeral benefit for non-service-connected death not in a VA facility or when veteran has no next-of-kin

The BRAVE Act will increase the benefit to \$780 (equal

to a non-service-connected death in a VA facility) and index it for inflation.

"On behalf of the more than 20,000 members of the National Funeral Directors Association, I applaud our leaders in Congress for introducing this bill," said Christine Pepper, CAE, CEO of NFDA. "As a nation, we owe so much to our veterans. The BRAVE Act will go a long way to helping ensure families can meaningfully commemorate the life of a veteran who has died; it is the least we can do as a grateful nation."

Last year, in testimony before the Senate Veterans Committee, the Department of Veterans Affairs endorsed the BRAVE Act. Paul R. Lawrence, Ph.D., undersecretary for Benefits, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, testified that the BRAVE Act "will allow [the] VA to offer a more valuable reimbursement for the costs of a veteran's funeral during a very difficult and vulnerable period of transition for the survivor."

The BRAVE Act was also endorsed by several veterans' service organizations during the Senate Veterans Committee hearing last year. In its testimony, The American Legion stated, "We support legislation increasing burial allowances and programs within the VA that will enhance, promote, restore or preserve benefits for veterans and their dependents."

The Veterans of Foreign Wars testified, "The VFW supports this important bill, which would increase the funeral and burial benefit for eligible veterans."

Other veterans' service organizations endorsing the BRAVE Act include the Military Officers Association of America, the Vietnam Veterans of America, the Association of the United States Navy and the Disabled American Veterans.

NFDA is the world's leading and largest funeral service association, serving more than 20,000 individual members who represent nearly 11,000 funeral homes in the United States and 49 countries around the world. NFDA is the trusted leader, beacon for ethics and the strongest advocate for the profession. NFDA is the association of choice because it offers funeral professionals comprehensive educational resources, tools to manage successful businesses, guidance to become pillars in their communities and the expertise to foster future generations of funeral professionals. NFDA is headquartered in Brookfield, Wis., and has an office in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.nfda.org.

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Radiation Protection Guidelines for Safe Handling of Decedents

March 14, 2019

Given the widespread use of radiation in nuclear medicine and radiation oncology procedures in the United States and around the world, it is likely that crematory operators have cared for the bodies of individuals who have undergone treatments involving the use of radiation.

Understandably, the recent publication of a *Journal of the American Medical Association* (JAMA) Research Letter titled “Radiation Contamination Following Cremation of a Deceased Patient Treated with a Radiopharmaceutical” has raised concerns among NFDA members and others in the profession about potential exposure and risk. To that point, the American Association of Physicists in Medicine (AAPM) and American College of Radiology (ACR) published the following statement:

“Radioactive materials are used routinely in medical practice to improve human health. The risk of harm to the crematorium operator is so small that it cannot be measured.” Read the full statement here: <https://www.radiology-business.com/topics/policy/aapm-acr-radioactive-cremation-radiopharmaceutical>.

Many members are also seeking guidance about whether their existing policies and procedures for dealing with this potential exposure or risk are effective. The most up-to-date information from the medical community indicates that the risk of exposure is minimal and supports current handling guidelines. Here is that information:

Low risk of radioactive contamination from cremation when proper safety procedures followed (AAPM): <https://www.aapm.org/publicgeneral/LowRiskRadioactiveContaminationFromCremation.asp>

Guidelines for Handling Decedents Contaminated with Radioactive Materials (CDC): <https://emergency.cdc.gov/radiation/pdf/radiation-decedent-guidelines.pdf>

Model Procedure for Medical Examiners/Coroners Handling body/remains potentially contaminated (Dept. of Energy): <https://www.energy.gov/sites/prod/files/em/TEPP/2-b-4MedicalExaminer-CoronerGuideforHandling-Body-HumanRemains.pdf>

Radiation Protection Guidelines for the Safe Handling of Decedents (CNSC): <http://nuclearsafety.gc.ca/eng/acts-and-regulations/regulatory-documents/history/reg-doc2-7-3.cfm>

Importantly, one of the tenets of the National Funeral Directors Association’s Certified Crematory Operator Program™ is to ensure that crematory operators have the necessary information about the decedent to conduct cremation safely. NFDA guidance on authorizations includes the need to obtain representation that there are no radioactive or other implants, pacemakers or mechanical devices in the remains as they may create a hazardous condition when placed in the cremation chamber and subjected to heat. Typically, the authorization includes detail as to all devices which may have been implanted in or attached to the remains, which may possibly require special precautions before the remains are placed in the cremation chamber and subjected to heat.

The JAMA article concludes: “... further studies are needed to evaluate the frequency and scope of radiation contamination and health effects of repeated or long-term exposure of employees in crematoriums in the United States ... Future safety protocols for radiopharmaceuticals should include postmortem management, such as evaluating radioactivity in deceased patients prior to cremation and standardizing notification of crematoriums.” NFDA will continue to share important updates on this research should it become available.



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Tennessee Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers

Rules Notify

Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 4-3-1306(d), you are receiving this notice because you have elected to receive notification by e-mail of certain or potential changes to the law applicable to your profession. You may have received a similar notice on or about December 21, 2018, regarding these rules. Rules must be on file with the Secretary of State's office for ninety (90) days before they become effective. The Tennessee Board of Funeral Directors and Embalmers ("Board") approved these rules at a rulemaking hearing held on October 9, 2018, and the vast majority of these amendments will become effective on **March 12, 2019**.

Summary of Amendments:

Rule 0660-01-.03 is amended to require notification of the permanent closure of a funeral establishment within ten (10) days of the effective date of the change.

Rule 0660-02-.01 is amended to clarify that an applicant must pass either the NBE or SBE and the LRR prior to the issuance of a license with a thirty (30) day waiting period between unsuccessful attempts for each examination. Further, the examination results for the Laws, Rules, and Regulations Examination (LRR) shall only be valid for one (1) year.

Rule 0660-02-.02 is amended to specify that grades are sent from the testing agency directly to the Executive Director of the Board in a format prescribed by the Board. Further, examinees are now required to resolve disputes directly with the testing agency.

Rule 0660-03-.01 is amended to reduce the fees for students from seventy dollars (\$70.00) to fifty dollars (\$50.00) and further explains that any dually enrolled student would only have to pay one fee. Apprentice funeral director and embalmer fees are reduced from seventy dollars (\$70.00) to fifty dollars (\$50.00).

Rule 0660-03-.03 is amended to reduce the licensing fees for funeral directors and embalmers from two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275.00) to two hundred thirty-five dollars (\$235.00).

Rule 0660-04-.01 is amended by adding a requirement that a person beginning a required course of study register with the Board. In addition, this amendment keeps individuals from re-registering for apprenticeships by creating a waiting period when they have either completed an apprenticeship or substantially completed an apprenticeship within a twelve (12) month period or less. The amendment further requires an application for an apprenticeship registration to be fully completed by a registrant within ninety (90) days of receipt by the Board's office.

Rule 0660-05-.01 is amended by requiring any application for licensure as a funeral director or embalmer to be completed by the applicant within ninety (90) days of receipt by the Board's office.

Rule 0660-06-.01 is amended by requiring any application for an establishment license to be completed by the applicant within ninety (90) days of receipt by the Board's office. Rule 0660-06-.02 is amended allowing the Board more discretion to examine the type of professional signage. In addition, the Board may also consider the volume of services provided for non-human remains as well as the type and volume of advertising services for non-human remains in determining whether a proposed fixed place of business or establishment is devoted to the care and preparation of dead human bodies.

Rule 0660-06-.04 is amended to require a re-inspection of an establishment prior to the offering of services related to the preparation of non-human remains.

Rule 0660-09-.01 is amended to require designations of the use of certain equipment and tools in the cremation process for either human or non-human bodies.



CONTINUING EDUCATION ON-LINE

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



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Rule 0660-10-.03 is amended to clarify that the five (5) “in person” continuing education hours can also be obtained through an interactive virtual program.

Rule 0660-10-.04 defines what qualifies as an interactive virtual program.

Rule 0660-10-.05 requires a record to be kept pertaining to any interactive virtual program detailing its compliance with the requirements for such programs.

Rule 0660-11-.02 is amended to require designations of the use of certain equipment and tools in the preparation process for either human or non-human bodies.

Rule 0660-11-.05: defines unreasonable treatment to include unresponsive behavior to a member of the public. It allows funeral directors and embalmers to be held for unprofessional conduct for the untimely filing of death certificates. It further creates a process for cases that involve sexual misconduct related to or regarding a dead human body. Finally, it grants the Board discretion in cases where it appears an establishment is misleading the public as to its physical location.

Rule 0660-11-.07 is amended to clarify the necessary notifications and procedures related to providing of services for non-human remains.

Rule 0660-12-.01 is amended to require written consent in

order for non-human and human remains to be transported together.

Summary of New Rule(s):

Rule 0660-03-.12 creates a \$100 submission fee for cremation authorization forms that are not furnished by the Board. It further creates a requirement that these forms, upon submission, demonstrate compliance with the applicable laws and rules.

These rules are available for review on the Secretary of State’s website under Pending Rules: https://publications.tn-sosfiles.com/rules_filings/12-19-18.pdf

Effective Date(s):

The above-mentioned rules will become effective on March 12, 2019, with the exception of new rule 0660-03-.12. New rule 0660-03-.12 will become effective on July 1, 2019.



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Obituaries



Ms. Helen Elizabeth "Betty" Bales, age 91 of Morristown, passed away peacefully at her home on February 9, 2019 with her family by her side. She was a longtime member of Grace Baptist Church and after graduating from high school she worked for Bell South as a telephone operator before raising her family.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Dewey L. Bales; parents, Walter W. and Alta McNabb Brown; sister, Louise Gregory; brothers, Fred, C. Hunter, Paul Brown.

She is survived by her children, Stephen L. (Karen) Bales, Janice Kaye (Phil) Wampler, Michael S. (Hazel) Bales; grandchildren, Derek Bales, Sarah (Phillip) Rowan, John (Gretchen) Wampler, Michelle (Al) Smith; great-grandchildren, Dusty and Johnny Bales, Emma and Ava Rowan.

Ms. Bales was the mother of Mr. Steven Bales, owner of Stetzer-Bales Funeral Home in Morristown.

A memorial donation was made to the TFDA Memorial Scholarship Fund in the name of Ms. Helen Elizabeth "Betty" Bales by Mr. Jerry Griffey, Knoxville, TN.



Frank Myers Jr., 75, of Tellico Plains, TN, won the battle and claimed his victory February 19, 2019 while surrounded by his loving family at Starr Regional Health and Rehabilitation of Etowah.

He was born March 3, 1943 at the family farm in the Rural Vale Community to Frank Sr. and Icie Peals Myers. Frank was a 1961 graduate of Alcoa High School and served in the United States Marine Corps. He served in many civic organizations and clubs in Tellico Plains. The most dear to his heart was serving as Scoutmaster in the Boy Scouts of America. He served as the scoutmaster for troop 115 of Tellico Plains for over 50 years. His devotion to scouting has changed the lives of numerous boys and he will always be remembered for his cooking skills and scouting stories.

Frank's love to serve the people in his hometown inspired him to open Myers Funeral Home in Tellico Plains in March of

1973. His wife Sharon and their three children have followed in his footsteps by becoming licensed funeral directors and working by his side throughout the years.

Frank's love of farming has been passed on as well. Myers Farm has been in the family for over 100 years. Several family members continue to work on the farm. He was known as a hard worker who liked black cows and green tractors. His farming led to Myers Excavation where he enjoyed working with his backhoe and dozer.

He was preceded in death by his parents, listed above, his father and mother-in-law, Richard and Minnie Aldridge, sister-in-law, Margie Myers and nephew Keith McDaniel.

Survivors:

Wife of 52 years, Sharon Myers; son and daughter-in-law, Frank "Bud" III and Tammy Myers; daughters and sons-in-law, Lee Ann and Tim Adams and Dana Jo and Steve Ryan; granddaughters and spouses, Maranda Shaw, Jodie and Jeremiah Underwood, Amber and David Davis, and Leah Myers; grandsons and spouse; Damon and Neyland Shaw, Dalton Myers, and Jeb Best; great-grandchildren: Maverick, Mayvin, Skyler, and Rylee Jo; brother, David Myers; sister and brother-in-law, Patsy and Dwight Broome; sister-in-law, Joyce McDaniel; children by heart, Yuliya and Ozzie Webb and Tatiana and Jason Kyker along with several others, many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Frank has been blessed with many many wonderful friends throughout the years.

Memorials may be made:

www.alztennessee.org/give/donate-now or to Brown Hill Cemetery Fund C/O Steve Harris 819 Mecca Pike, Tellico Plains, TN 37385. Myers Funeral Home of Tellico Plains in charge of arrangements. If you are unable to attend, you may sign the guest registry on our website at:

www.myersfunerallhometn.com

Myers Funeral Home

P. O. Box 132, Tellico Plains, TN 37385

423-253-2211

continued on the next page



Mr. Paul Nichols, age 96, passed away March 17, 2019, at his home surrounded by family.

He was born in Medina, TN to the late Oma and Artie Watt Nichols. After high school, he joined the U. S. Army, where he served in WWII. In 1951, he went to work at Replogle Funeral Home where he was a funeral director for 30 years. He also worked at the Milan Army Ammunition Plant where he retired

in 2000. Mr. Nichols was a lifelong member of Latham Chapel Baptist Church where he served as a deacon and Sunday School teacher.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife of 65 years, Ruth Brasfield Nichols; siblings, Sarah Walker, Marie Coleman, James Nichols, Clarence Nichols, Andrew Nichols, Jessie Nichols.

He is survived by his family; Emily and Dennis Pulley, their daughter, Krista; Rebecca and Gary Bryant, their children, Michael, Jeanifer, Ashley and Andrew; Tom and Cissy Nichols, their children, Andy, Cindy, Jeff and Patricia; Howard and Debbie Nichols, their children, Randa, Kristen, Ryan, Courtney and Jessica; Nancy and James Goodrich, their daughter, Sonya Carol, and 19 great-grandchildren.



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2019 TFDA/TFSSC 116th Annual Convention

Sunday, June 2, 2019

Sevierville Convention Center

CONVENTION AT A GLANCE



SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019

10:30 am – 11:30 am

Interfaith Service with Todd Van Beck

12:00 noon

Silent Auction Begins



12:00 pm – 2:00 pm
(Pending approval of 2 ceu's)
Seminar – Nectar Ramirez
“Setting a New Standard: The Cremation Arrangement”
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2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Pending approval of 2 ceus
Seminar – Mary Russell
“Decoding the Generations”
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4:30 pm Family Gathers for
Memorial Service

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

TFDA/TFSSC Memorial Service

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6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

(Pending 1 approval of 1 ceu)

Grand Opening Exhibit Hall

Ice Cream Social inside Exhibit Hall

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MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019

9:00 am – 11:00 am

TFDA Business Meeting

50 Years of Service Plaques Awarded

(Pending approval of 2 ceu's)

10:00 am – 11:00 am

TFSSC Business Meeting

11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Exhibit Hall open

(Pending approval of 1 ceu)

11:30 am

Luncheon in the Exhibit Hall

(Pending approval of 1 ceus)

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12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Seminar – Brent McNeeley

“When Funeral Directors Serve One of their Own”

11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Exhibit Hall Open

(Pending approval of 1 ceu)

5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Past President's Reception

6:00 pm Auction/Monday Night Combined Event

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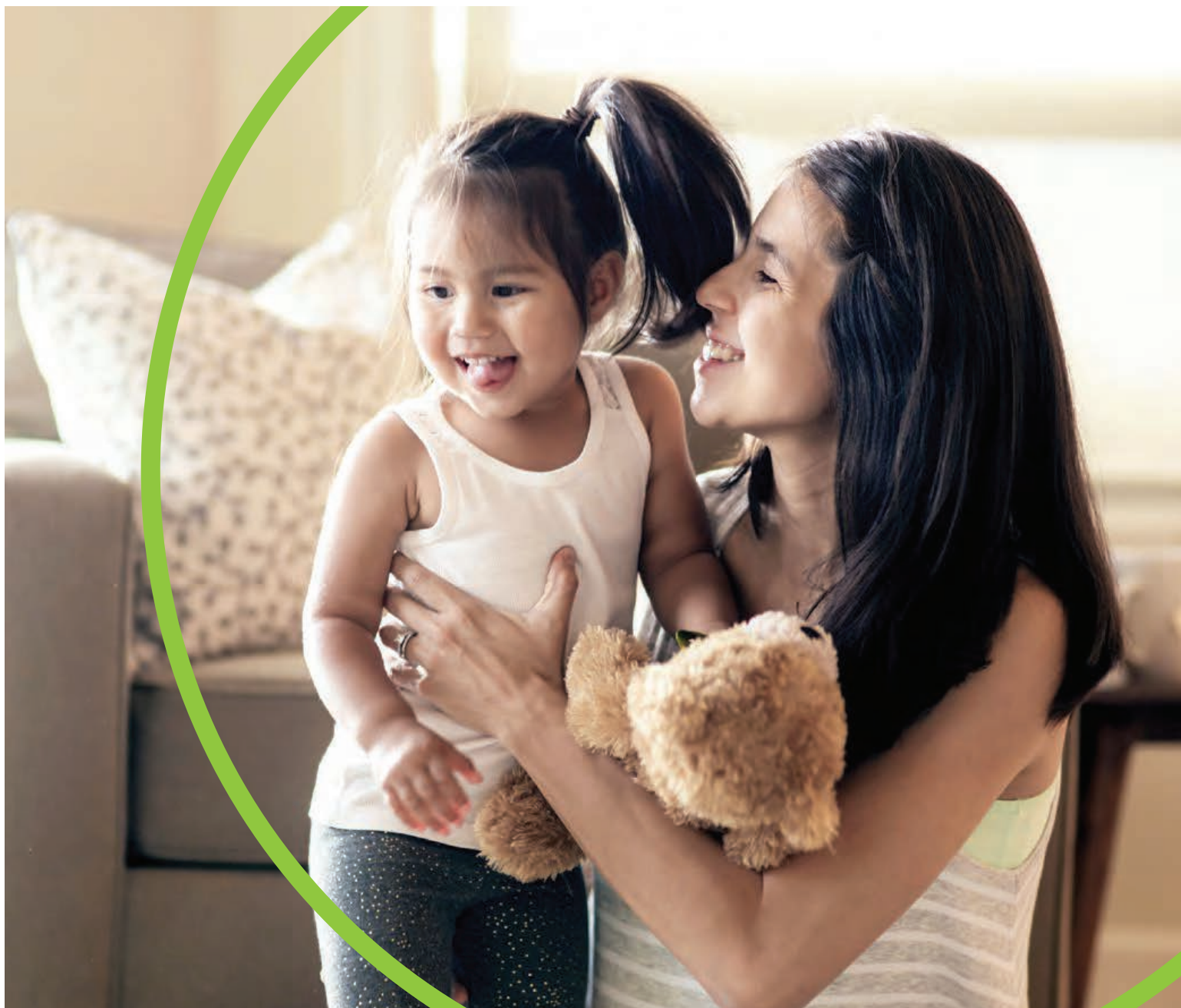
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Congress Moves to Regulate Body Brokers

Brookfield, Wis. – When a family chooses to donate a loved one's body for education or research, they do so with the hope that they will make a difference in the field of medicine. Regrettably, many are unknowingly contributing to a for-profit industry in which the body of their loved one could be traded as raw material in a largely unregulated national market. With the introduction of H.R. 1835 in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congress is taking an essential step toward regulating this industry. This bill has the full support of the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA).

When a family donates a loved one's organs or tissues for transplantation, the process is transparent and tightly regulated. When donating organs and tissues, a family can usually specify which organs they wish to donate in advance and can oftentimes still opt for an open-casket funeral.

Some families choose to donate their loved one's body for scientific or medical research, an equally worthy choice. With whole body donation, bodies and body parts are used for education, research or the advancement of medical, dental or mortuary science. Researchers rely on donated human body parts to develop new surgical instruments, techniques, implants, medicines and treatments for diseases. Surgeons, paramedics and funeral directors use donated bodies and body parts for training, education and research.

In most states, whole body donations may be made to a university, a state agency or a non-transplant tissue bank, which includes brokers who sell bodies. The brokers make money by providing bodies and dissected parts to companies and institutions that specialize in advancing medicine and other trades through critical training, education and research.

The poor and elderly are often encouraged to donate their loved one's body to science because some non-transplant tissue banks pick up the body, transport it and cremate it for free. Most university and state-run anatomy programs do not actively solicit donations. Some medical schools have reported that competition from body brokers has reduced the number of bodies donated to schools to train students because some brokers are able to offer donors more favorable terms, such as free removal of the body.

Non-transplant tissue banks are not covered under the same laws that cover organ and tissue transplantation. Few state laws provide any oversight whatsoever and almost anyone,

regardless of expertise, can dissect and sell human bodies and body parts.

Under the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act, most state anatomical gift laws largely regulate just one side of the process – how a body may be donated. Most do not address what happens next, such as how brokers dissect, handle and ship the parts; the prices they set on human remains; to whom they sell them; how the parts are used by buyers; or the rights of donors and next-of-kin.

In almost every state, it's legal to sell the human remains of adults. Generally, a broker can sell a donated human body for about \$5,000, though prices sometimes top \$10,000. Bodies and body parts can be bought, sold and leased, again and again. As a result, it can be difficult to track what becomes of donors' bodies, ensure they are handled with dignity, and returned to their loved ones after cremation.

Few rules mean few consequences when bodies are mistreated.

In one example of the heartache caused by the lack of regulation, a woman in New Mexico claimed that employees from a body broker in Albuquerque, N.M., visited her and made a heartfelt pitch: the generous gift of her father's body to science would benefit medical students, doctors and researchers, citing several possible contributions, including that it might be used to train surgeons on knee replacement techniques.

It took weeks longer than promised to receive what she was told were her father's cremated remains and once she received them, she suspected they were not his ashes because they looked like sand. She was correct.

In April 2010, she was told by authorities that her father's head was among body parts discovered at a medical incinerator. She also learned – for the first time, she said – that the broker was in the business of selling body parts. Inside the company's warehouse, authorities found at least 127 body parts belonging to 45 people. "All of the bodies appeared to have been dismembered by a coarse cutting instrument, such as a chainsaw," a police detective wrote in an affidavit. The owner of the company was charged with fraud.

H.R. 1835 will transform the landscape by providing the Secretary of Health and Human Services with oversight

of any entity that deals with human bodies and non-transplantable body parts donated for education, research and the advancement of medical, dental and mortuary science. The bill also, among other things, creates a clear chain of custody for each human body or body part, ensures shipments of human bodies and body parts are properly labeled and packaged, and ensures the respectful and proper disposition of donated bodies and body parts. The bill also sets up penalties for violations of the act.

“Families that donate a loved one’s body for research or education often find comfort in knowing their loved one will help improve the health and wellness of others,” said NFDA President Chuck Bowman, CMSP, CFSP, CCO. “The tragic headlines about body brokers taking advantage of the generosity of donors and donor families by barbarically dismembering bodies and selling and reselling body parts at a substantial profit are shocking. By passing H.R. 1835, Congress will bring accountability and transparency to the whole body donation process, ensuring donors’ bodies are treated with dignity and respect at all times.”

NFDA is the world’s leading and largest funeral service association, serving more than 20,000 individual members

who represent nearly 11,000 funeral homes in the United States and 49 countries around the world. NFDA is the trusted leader, beacon for ethics and the strongest advocate for the profession. NFDA is the association of choice because it offers funeral professionals comprehensive educational resources, tools to manage successful businesses, guidance to become pillars in their communities and the expertise to foster future generations of funeral professionals. NFDA is headquartered in Brookfield, Wis., and has an office in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit www.nfda.org.

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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.

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River Lodge | Stone Hill Lodge

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RESORT INFO

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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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Mike Blair (615) 308-7811
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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.