

THE THANA GRAM

Fall 2020

Official Publication of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

President's Message

Randy Nash • TFDA Board of Directors



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NFDA Policy board Elects Chris E. Christian to Serve on Board of Directors

Greetings Fellow Funeral Professionals,

I hope this finds all of you doing well and continuing to stay safe during these uncertain times in our world. 2020 has been an interesting year, not the greatest ever, but I will say I am happy to see that Fall is among us. The temperature change here in Middle Tennessee has been long awaited by this husky undertaker. Fall means a few things, school is back in session, leaves are beginning to change, my wife puts pumpkins on any empty spot in our home, and last but not least...football season (hopefully).

A few weeks ago, a survey was sent out to the membership regarding an in-person district meeting. We received well over 100 responses and I thank those who were able to do so. I am pleased to announce that we will be having an in-person district meeting this fall here in Middle Tennessee. The details are still being worked out but should be out to you all very soon. This meeting will be a hybrid of sorts, with an in-person or virtual option available, be on the lookout for more information forthcoming.

In addition to the upcoming district meeting, I am also proud to announce that our 2021 TFDA/TFSSC Annual Convention will be back in Middle Tennessee and held at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Convention Center in Franklin, TN. I am looking forward to announcing more of what we will have in store for you next June!

Over the past few weeks, you have also received some correspondence and hopefully got a chance to see our Facebook live video regarding our TFDA PAC Fund. The PAC Fund is funded solely by donations from our members and the proceeds from the silent and live auctions at the convention. With the cancellation of convention our PAC Fund has suffered. Many of you have made donations and for that we are extremely grateful, if you have not had a chance to donate to the PAC Fund please do so as you are able. The PAC Fund is extremely important to what we do as an association on a legislative level.

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; I genuinely appreciate each and every one of you. If we can ever be of assistance to you or anyone that you know of, please do not hesitate to let us know.

Yours in service always,
Randy Nash
TFDA President



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NFDA Policy Board Elects

Chris E. Christian and Bea Lewanduski

to Serve on Board of Directors



Brookfield, Wis. – The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) Policy Board met August 1 and elected Chris E. Christian, CFSP, CCO, and Beatrice “Bea” Lewanduski, CFSP, to serve as at-large representatives on the association’s Board of Directors. They will begin two-year terms of service immediately following the 2020

NFDA Virtual International Convention & Expo.

Christian, who is the co-owner of Christian-Sells Funeral Home in Rogersville, Tenn., is a first-generation funeral director who began working in the profession at age 15. He has been a dedicated leader in the funeral profession, having served in many roles with the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, including a term as president. Christian has also been active with NFDA, having served as a member of the Budget Task Force and as his state’s representative to the Policy Board.

In video remarks made during his campaign, Christian said, “We must maintain strong, solid leadership to support the fantastic team at the National Funeral Directors Association and I am ready for that challenge.”

Lewanduski has been a funeral director for 43 years and currently serves as the manager of D’Andrea Brothers Funeral Home in Copiague, N.Y. A passionate funeral service volunteer, Lewanduski has been actively involved with her local association and the New York State Funeral Directors Association. Nationally, Lewanduski has served on the NFDA Advocacy Committee and as New York’s representative to the Policy Board.

“It is my nature to give my all where I ask to serve and when others ask me to serve. And that will be my focus and my promise to NFDA in every capacity where I may be given that honor to do so,” noted Lewanduski in a video campaign statement.

In May, NFDA announced that the following individuals were elected by acclamation to serve as officers on the 2020-21 Board of Directors: President-elect John O.

“Jack” Mitchell IV, CFSP, CCSP; Treasurer Douglas R. “Dutch” Nie II, CFSP, CCO; and Secretary Christopher P. Robinson, CFSP, CCO. The 2020-21 NFDA Board of Directors will be led by President Randall P. “Randy” Anderson, CFSP, CCO. The officers will serve one-year terms of office that begin following the 2020 NFDA International Convention & Expo.

Current NFDA President R. Bryant Hightower Jr., CFSP, will continue his service on the Board with a one-year term as immediate past president that commences at the end of the 2020 NFDA Convention. Also continuing their service on the Board of Directors are 2019-21 At-large Representatives Linda Allan, CFSP, and Daniel J. Ford, CFSP, CCSP.

More information about Christian and Lewanduski can be found on the NFDA website, www.nfda.org/vote.

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.

Note: Photos of the newly-elected at-large representatives is available for use by the media. Please email NFDA Public Relations Manager Jessica Koth (jkoth@nfda.org) for more information.

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NFDA News

Stay Safe – Follow Label Directions When Using Disinfectants

Since the beginning of the pandemic, the CDC has recommended the importance of cleaning and disinfecting surfaces to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Concern has been expressed over potential health and environmental risks from improper use of disinfectants, including EPA approved substances. This has led to renewed warnings that everyone who uses disinfectants closely follow label warnings.

“A recent report described a sharp increase in calls to poison centers related to exposures to cleaners and disinfectants since the onset of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic,” the CDC wrote in its June 5 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

To provide insight into the reported increase in poison center calls and to inform prevention strategies, CDC conducted an opt-in Internet panel survey of 502 U.S. adults. The survey’s purpose was to characterize knowledge and practices regarding household cleaning and disinfection during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The survey found there were knowledge gaps were identified in several areas, including safe preparation of cleaning and disinfectant solutions, use of recommended personal protective equipment when using cleaners and disinfectants, and safe storage of hand sanitizers, cleaners, and disinfectants.

Thirty-nine percent of respondents reported engaging in non-recommended high-risk practices with the intent of preventing transmission of COVID-19, such as washing food products with bleach, applying household cleaning or disinfectant products to bare skin, and intentionally inhaling or ingesting these products. Respondents who engaged in high-risk practices more frequently reported an adverse health effect that they believed was a result of using cleaners or disinfectants than did those who did not report engaging in these practices.

You can read more about the study here: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6923e2.htm>.

While this study specifically examined the use of disinfectants in household settings, the advice holds true for the use of disinfectants in other settings, such as your business. This is a good reminder to carefully follow label instruction for all cleaning and sanitizing and related products.

More information about cleaning and disinfecting workplaces can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/organizations/businesses-employers.html>. Learn more about disinfecting your home here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/disinfecting-your-home.html>.



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TN State Representative District 21

Submitted by Lowell Russell

Bierley-Hale Funeral Home was voted the #1 funeral home and Barry Self was voted #1 funeral director by the readers of the Advocate Democrat Newspaper for the 2020 People's Choice Award. Every year readers of the vote on businesses and employees of businesses. Bierley-Hale Funeral Home is in the 21st District and I am very familiar with the funeral home and staff. Bierley-Hale has done the services for my family and I personally know that all the employees are top notch! I was honored to stop in on, Friday, August 7, 2020, to congratulate them and present Barry with a certificate for his accomplishment.

Congratulations Barry Self, Bierley-Hale Funeral Home, Madisonville and Tellico Plains, Long time TFDA member.



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Obituaries



Mr. John "Bubba" Benton Woodfin, age 85, of Murfreesboro, TN passed away Saturday, July 4, 2020 at his home. He was a lifelong resident of Murfreesboro and son of the late John T. Woodfin, Jr. and Virginia Black Woodfin. He was a 1954 graduate of Murfreesboro Central High School. Bubba attended MTSU before going into the United States Army. He came

home to enroll at John A. Gupton College in Nashville where he was a 1957 graduate.

A fourth-generation funeral director, Bubba's funeral service career began at age 12 riding with his father in the ambulance. He has compassionately, selflessly, and humbly served the people of Rutherford County his entire life. Bubba made his famous cornbread for the families Woodfin Chapel served over the years. An avid sportsman and outdoorsman, Bubba hunted and fished throughout the world, and especially loved hunting with his friends in South Dakota. He loved hosting fish fries throughout the community for various charities, friends, and family. Another passion of Bubba's was entertaining at his beloved cabin in the family's backyard.

Bubba was a lifelong member and elder of Central Christian Church. He was a past president of the Rutherford County Sportsmens Club. Bubba's civic involvement included the Noon Rotary Club where he was a past president and a Paul Harris Fellow. He served as president of the **Tennessee Funeral Directors' Association in 1974-1975** and was a former officer with National Selected Morticians, a worldwide independent funeral service organization. He was involved in countless philanthropic endeavors including he and his wife Kay being named as the 2009 Heart Ball Honorees and the 2014 Philanthropists of the Year by the St. Thomas Rutherford Society. Bubba also enjoyed his memberships at the Walter Hill Country Club and with the Hooper's Supply Boys.

Bubba is survived by his wife of 61 years, Katherine "Kay" Shannon Woodfin; daughters, Shannon Parsons and her husband David of Murfreesboro, Katherine "Kit" Ramsay and her husband Chuck of Murfreesboro, Melissa Combs and her husband Ron of Brentwood, TN, and Ashley Backer and her

husband John of Lexington, KY; sister, Frances "Sissy" Follis and her husband Don of Murfreesboro; grandchildren, Kati Milam and her husband Philip, Charlie Ramsay and his wife Amanda, Hannah Margaret Allen, Gracie and Meg Combs, Ann Frances, Katherine, and Jack Backer; and great-grandchildren, Ramsay Kate and Oliver Milam and Addison, Ella, and Lucy Ramsay. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by a sister, Virginia Love Woodfin Beasley; and brother-in-law, Harold Beasley.



Luther Wendell Hix, age 80 of Murfreesboro, TN went to be with the Lord on Thursday, July 23, 2020.

Born in Celina, TN on July 1, 1940 to the late Comer and Minnie T. Smith Hix. He was also preceded in death by brother; Hugh Hix, sisters; Myra Smith, Edna Fay Hix, and a stepson; Tommy Morris.

He is survived by his loving wife of 35 years Shirley England Hix, son; Steve (Kristy) Hix, grandchildren; Drew (Kimberly) Hix, Amy (Thomas) Byrd, step-granddaughter; Macy (Shawn) Childress.

Wendell was a member of Kingwood Church of Christ. He retired from Atmos Energy as Marketing Director and **worked part time for 10 years at Murfreesboro Funeral Home as a funeral attendant.**

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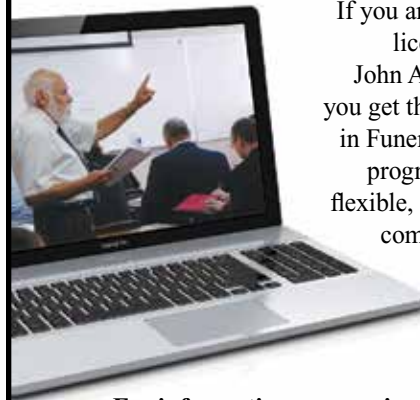


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Roger Paul Fagan, age 76, of Lewisburg, died Tuesday, August 4th, 2020 at his residence in Lewisburg.

He was a native of Marshall County, the son of the late Paul Waldrop and Billie Marie Marchand Fagan. He was a retired Law Enforcement Officer and was an **employee of London Funeral Home & Crematory** at the time of his passing. He was

a member of East Commerce Baptist Church and attended Grace Baptist Church of Lewisburg. Roger was a lifelong public servant. He served as an EMT for Marshall County Ambulance Service, a Marshall County Chief Deputy, Lewisburg Police Officer and a City Detective, Cornersville Chief of Police, and a Marshall County Commissioner. Roger possessed a true work ethic and compassion for his fellow man.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Bart Fagan, and a sister, Janice Fagan Willis.

He is survived by his wife, Helen Marie Odom Fagan, Lewisburg, one daughter, Lisa (Shane) Chapman, Chapel Hill, one brother, Randall (Janice) Fagan, Ohio, daughter-in-law, Jeanne Fagan, Lewisburg, brother-in-law, Phil Willis, Lewisburg, five grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and many, many, dear friends.

We are saddened to announce the death of friend and colleague, Norman Slate. **Norman Glendle Slate** passed away Friday, August 7, 2020, one day short of his 80th birthday.

At his request, Norman was laid to rest beside his mother and father in Spring Hill Cemetery with a simple gravesite service with just his family present.



He leaves his daughters: Sherry (Chris) Wallace of Russellville, Alabama and Ginger (Rick) Botts of Goodlettsville, Tennessee, grandchildren: Lexie and Morgan Botts, and Slate and Julianna Wallace and his sister Patricia Slate.

Norman was a gospel minister, and a licensed funeral director.

Funeral directors throughout Middle Tennessee called on Norman time and again to officiate funeral service when the family didn't have a minister. He comforted countless families throughout his life with his ability to share stories and personalize funeral services that helped honor the life of their loved one.

For many years, Norman was associated with Madison Church of Christ.

He earned his funeral directors license while working for late Johnnie Garrett at Cole & Garrett Funeral Home in Goodlettsville.

He later worked at Spring Hill Funeral Home & Crematory in Madison.

Most recently, Norman worked with Music City Mortuary, where he would fill-in for funeral homes that needed extra help, or maybe they just needed the joy and positive influence he left wherever he served.



Helen Ward "Pinkie" Farrar, age 93 of Dandridge passed away Saturday, August 29, 2020 at her home. She was a member of the Dandridge First United Methodist Church. She was born in Clinton, TN the daughter of the late James and Alice (Enix) Ward. Preceded in death by her husband,

Roy E. "Toad" Farrar and an infant twin son. Helen and her husband Toad owned and operated Farrar Funeral Home of Dandridge for many years. She enjoyed reading and doing needlepoint and many other crafts. A beloved wife, mother, and grandmother she is survived by her daughter, Pam Farrar; sons, Roy E. (Rick) Farrar, III and Jack (Tammie) Farrar; grandchildren, Laura (Cody) Cantrell and Kelly Farrar.



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Harold Gordon Cross, age 89, of Blountville, passed away on Wednesday, September 2, 2020, at his home. He was a son of the late Herman and Mollie Frazier Cross. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his son, Billy Cross; sisters, Ruth Stacey, Helen Booher, and Sylvia Sage; brothers, Clarence, Scott, Arville, and Glynn Cross.

He was a member of Buffalo Christian Church, where he had served as a Sunday school teacher, deacon, and an elder. He was a Master Carpenter and had worked in construction most of his life. Other than woodworking, he enjoyed gardening, and spending time with his family.

Survivors include his loving wife of 49 years, Carolyn Sue Cross; daughters, Janet and Pamela Cross; sons, Mark, Dusty and wife Lauren, Daniel and wife Angie, and Freddie and wife Holly; grandchildren, Amanda Chastain and husband Tucker, Andy Cross and wife Elizabeth, Amber Tucker and husband Tommy, Makenzie Cross, Camden Cross, and Eli LaFollette; great grandchildren, Rhiley, Harper, Audrey, and Jaxson Chastain, Kinsley, and Kennedy Tucker; and Lyndsey Cross; sisters, Jean Reed and husband Ed, Mary Lou Amodeo, and Sue Regan and husband Mike; brother, Aaron Cross; and several nieces and nephews.

Condolences may be sent at www.christiansells.com. Father of Freddie Cross, funeral director at Christian-Sells Funeral Home in Rogersville. TN.



Roger Dean Grizzel, age 72, of Kingsport passed away at Holston Valley Medical Center on Friday, September 11, 2020.

Roger was born on August 13, 1948 to the late Worley and Sallie Edwards Grizzel in Tramel, Virginia. Roger was a graduate of Gate City High School and Kentucky School of Mortuary Science. He served his country in the United States Army in the

Vietnam War. Roger was a funeral man for over 50 years. His passion for helping families through their most difficult times started at the young age of 17. Upon his death, he was still working and just celebrated his 30 year anniversary with Matthews Aurora Casket Company in August of this year.

Those left to cherish his memory include his devoted wife of 50 years, Barbara Kirk Grizzel, and they would have celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on October 3rd; daughters, Deana Moore and husband Jason, Kara Pippin and husband Joe; grandsons, Christian Moore and his wife Banner, and Carter Pippin. His grandsons were his pride and joy. Roger also leaves behind several cousins, in-laws, nieces, nephews, and many special friends.

Those wishing to honor Roger's memory can make memorial contributions to the Sullivan County Animal Shelter, 380 Massengill Road, Blountville, TN or St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN. 38105.

A donation was made in honor of John "Bubba" Woodfin by

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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.



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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.



Daniel Pierce

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



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

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



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

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



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

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



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