

THE THANNAGRAM

New Year's 2020

Official Publication of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

President's Message

Randy Nash • TFDA Board of Directors



Time really flies! It is truly difficult to believe we are already into the second month of a new year, and the privilege of serving as your President is quickly coming to an end.

Our TFDA Board, Convention Committee and Education Committee have been hard at work planning the 2020 TFDA/TFSSC Convention and the TFDA Spring District Meetings. These two events alone will offer well over ten hours of CEU credits. Please take advantage of these opportunities.

The 2020 TFDA/TFSSC Convention will be at the Chattanooga Convention Center from May 31-June 2, 2020. "All Aboard the TFDA Service Train" will be this year's theme will focus on service techniques assisting funeral professionals with the ever-changing population we serve. I always enjoy seeing friends and acquaintances, both new and old, from across the state at the Convention. My hope is all of you are looking forward to this event as well.

Please make every effort to join us May 31st thru June 2nd in Chattanooga. You will find great presentations, new ideas, and old friends, all in a relaxing atmosphere. I am look forward to seeing everyone and proud to serve as your host at the "All Aboard the TFDA Service Train" in Chattanooga!

The TFDA 2020 Spring District Meeting dates and locations are as follows:

East District – Mon. March 23, 2020 at The Chop House, Kodak, TN

Middle District – Tue., March 24, 2020 at Wilson County Expo Ctr, Lebanon, TN,

West District – Thursday, March 26, 2020 at Jackson Country Club, Jackson, TN.

Each district meeting will host a seminar, approved for 3 CEU's, from 3:00pm – 6:00pm, Each TFDA District Meeting is approved for 2 CEU's from 6:00pm – 8:30pm.

Since I have been a TFDA board member, and especially since serving as your President, I have learned to appreciate how our association operates, and the importance of the TFDA mission. More importantly I have learned how none of what we do could be possible without the support of you, the TFDA member; and for that I thank you. I encourage anyone who would like to serve your profession in this capacity to please reach out to any TFDA board or staff member; I can assure you this will be a decision

If any TFDA board member or I can ever be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to reach out to any of us at any time.

Yours in Service,
Randy Nash
TFDA President
2019/2020



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HYDROLYSIS**

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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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2020 TFDA/TFSSC Memorial Service

Sunday, May 31, 2020

Chattanooga Convention Center, Chattanooga, TN

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

Please contact the Rosemary Harrison, Memorial Service Chairperson, rosemary.mc@gmail.com, if there is someone that has been left off the list below.

Honored at the 2020 TFDA/TFSSC Memorial Service

Name	Date of Death
Rebecca Alaine Lemley	5/5/2019
Tommy Sisk	05/13/2019
Robert Marshall Vanderford, Sr.	6/19/2019
Mark Link Anglin	6/23/2019
Carol "Jane" Chambers	7/2/2019
Kenneth G. Elder	7/3/2019
Virginia Love Woodfin Beasley	7/11/2019
Robert E. Garrett	8/1/2019
Patrick Conrey Meagher	8/10/2019
Larry Lynn McCormick	8/14/2019
Hal Q. Laymon	8/18/2019
Joe Bill Barlow	8/19/2019
Arthur Bennett Weatherford	8/29/2019
Wilma D. Marcum	8/30/2019
Ronald O. Hill	9/1/2019
Carl Mark Barker	9/4/2019
Segeant James Kelly Crow, Jr.	9/18/2019
Harry Lee Waterfield, II	9/24/2019
Thelma Howell	10/4/2019
James "Bill" Charlie Plunk	10/29/2019
Nancy Maxwell Grant	11/12/2019
Frances Arrington Harper	11/21/2019
Joshua Kevin Jennings	11/25/2019
Helen Gillespie Jeffers	12/1/2019
Teresa Brown Rogers	1/4/2020
Hyda R. Evans	2/3/2020

2020 TFDA/TFSSC 117th Annual Convention

May 31 – June 2, 2020

**Chattanooga
Convention Center
One Carter Plaza
Chattanooga, TN 37402**

**Chattanooga Marriott
Two Carter Plaza,
Chattanooga, TN 37402
423-756-0002**



**More 2020 TFDA/TFSSC 117th Annual Convention
details in the 2020 Spring issue**





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Death Certificates Required to Schedule Double Interments in National Cemeteries

Dear Funeral Directors:

The National Cemetery Scheduling Office (NCSO) requests the assistance of funeral homes to alleviate an on-going issue with the scheduling of double interments of Veterans with their spouses in VA national cemeteries.

NCA is required to verify the marital relationship between a Veteran and spouse at the time of death.[1] This is accomplished through review of the death certificate for the pre-deceased individual.

In order to comply with the requirement, we must ask you to provide the death certificate prior to calling to schedule a double interment. The NCSO will defer scheduling either interment until the pre-deceased death certificate can be verified.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation in this matter as we continue to look for ways to improve our service to Veterans and their family members.

[1] Title 38 Burial Eligibility authorities: 38 U.S.C. § 2402(a)(5), 38 CFR 38.620(e)

Thank you,
Jay Dalrymple
Director, National Cemetery Scheduling Office • St. Louis, MO



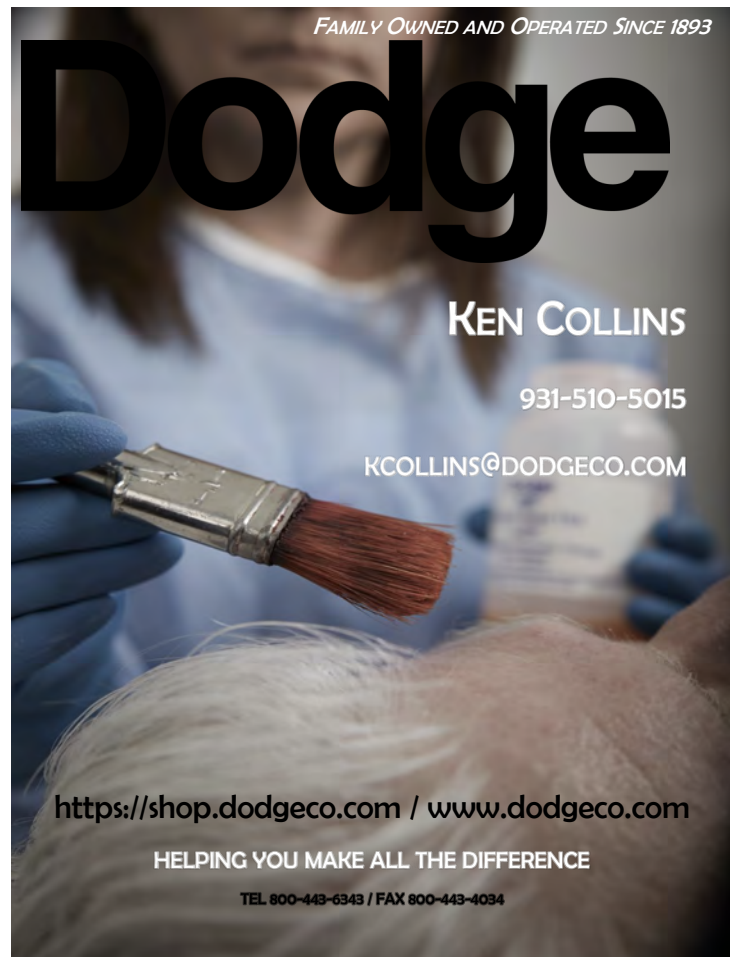
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Mike Blair (615) 308-7811
mikeb@auroracasket.com

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



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

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



Daniel Pierce

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



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

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



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

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



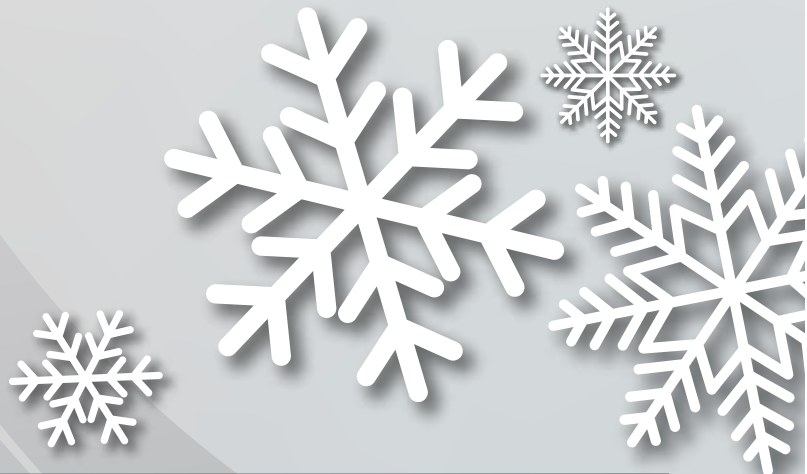
Tim Kalthoff (865) 567-0188
tkalthoff@matw.com

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



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

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2020

TFDA 2020 Spring District Meetings

ALL LOCATIONS

3:00pm – 6:00pm Seminar (Approved for 3 CEUs)

6:00pm – 8:30pm TFDA District Meeting (Approved for 2 CEUs)

EAST DISTRICT: Monday, March 23, 2020, Chop House, Kodak, TN

MIDDLE DISTRICT: Tuesday, March 24, 2020, Wilson Co Expo Center, Lebanon, TN

WEST DISTRICT: Thursday, March 26, 2020, Jackson Country Club, Jackson, TN



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NFDA NEWS: Meet the Mentors

Brookfield, Wis. – The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) is proud to announce the names of the 50 funeral professionals who will attend the 2020 Meet the Mentors Program: Presented by the Funeral Service Foundation, March 8-10 in Atlanta, Ga. Meet the Mentors has been wholly-funded by the Funeral Service Foundation since the program's 2011 inception.

During Meet the Mentors, these 50 funeral professionals who are either age 40 or under or new to the profession (first licensed within the last five years) will have an opportunity to meet, learn from and talk with innovative and successful funeral professionals. It's also an opportunity to network and form relationships with other new professionals.

The names of the 50 participants were announced during the week of January 20 through a series of video drawings that were shared on the NFDA website and social media sites (e.g., Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

About Meet the Mentors

Meet the Mentors attendees will spend time with three of the profession's highly esteemed funeral directors: Matt Bailey, CFSP, a fourth-generation funeral director and the owner/operator of B.C. Bailey Funeral Home in Wallingford, Conn.; Amy Cunningham, a New York state-licensed funeral director and the owner of Fitting Tribute Funeral Services in Brooklyn, N.Y.; and C. Lynn Gibson, Ph.D., managing partner of Smith Life & Legacy Funeral Home in Maryville, Tenn., and the vice president of Grandview Cemetery.

There is no cost to participate in the Meet the Mentors program itself. The Funeral Service Foundation's generous grant provides exclusive, career-transforming access to three mentors, and covers attendees' registration fees, lodging and select meals. The 50 individuals selected to attend only pay for their transportation to the program.

Nearly 600 young professionals and emerging leaders have benefited from the Meet the Mentors program, which underscores the Foundation's mission to support funeral service in building meaningful relationships with the families and communities it serves. The program is part of the Foundation '45 Awards, which are designed to transform the careers of funeral service professionals through scholarships, awards, resources and mission-focused outreach.

Complete details about the NFDA Meet the Mentors program, including the videos announcing the 2019 Meet the

Mentors participants, can be found on the association website, www.nfda.org/mentors.

The 2020 NFDA Meet the Mentors attendee representing Tennessee is:

JOY DONNA LIEB, Funeral Director and Embalmer



Joy Donna, a 2016 Worsham College of Mortuary Science graduate, moved to Tennessee in 2017 to start her career in the funeral service. Raised in the mid-west, she has known since high school that serving families in this time of need is her calling. Outside of the funeral home, she is a musician and loves adventure. Joy Donna is honored

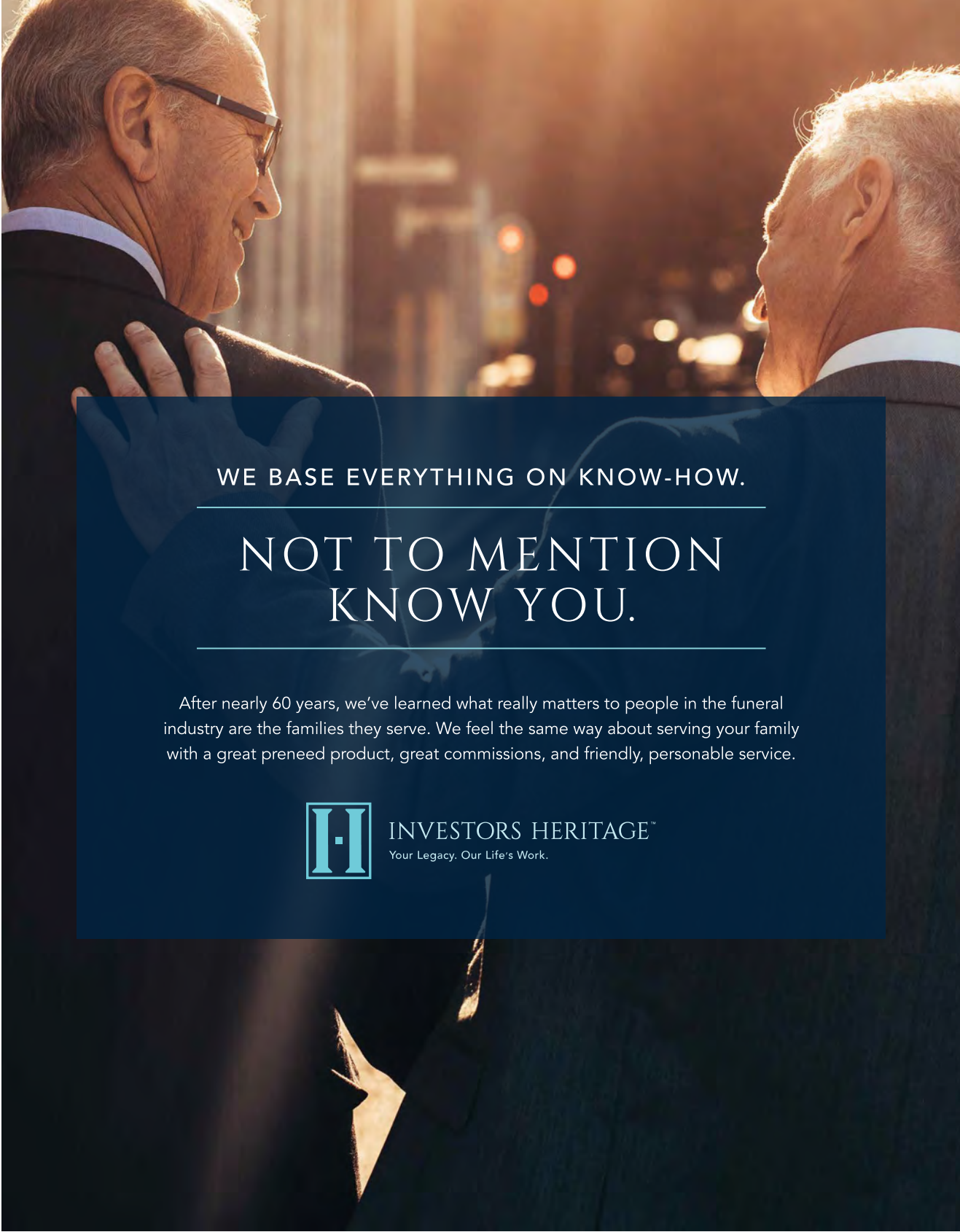
to become a part of her new community in such a personal way under the entrusted name of Austin & Bell Funeral Home.

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 professional's 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.

Tennessee Funeral Directors Association and the Tennessee Funeral Supply Sales Club Work Hand in Hand

The TFDA office would like to say thank you to the Sales Club for all their support. In the past, the TFDA office has ask for office supplies and the Sales Club has stepped up to assist.

Please check out and support the Tennessee Funeral Supply Sales Club listing on the TFDA website at <http://www.tnfda.org/forms/tfssc.pdf>.



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Jamie Bell
Decatur, Tennessee

Christopher Boggs
Baltimore, Maryland

Jadie Click
Murfreesboro, Tennessee

William Cobb
Blue Ridge, Georgia

Brianna Gesler
Springfield, Tennessee

Evan Grisell
Corbin, Kentucky

Jennifer Holladay
Nashville, Tennessee

Landon Hunter
Huntsville, Alabama

Alyssa Hyden
Somerset, Kentucky

Katyrina Jesch
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Josiah Klouda
Knoxville, Tennessee

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Obituaries

Mrs. Helen Gillespie Jeffers

Mrs. Helen Gillespie Jeffers, mother of Richard Jeffers, TFDA President 1997-98 and grandmother of Justin Jeffers, TFDA President 2018-19.



Helen Gillespie Jeffers, 100, of Tusculum passed away Sunday, December 1, 2019 at the home of her daughter.

Her parents, Glen and Euda Gillespie, raised her in Afton, TN where she was born in 1919.

Mrs. Jeffers attended Doak School before going on to Tusculum College and graduating in 1941.

Mrs. Jeffers married her childhood sweetheart, the late Rex Bright Jeffers, in 1942. Together they started Jeffers Mortuary in 1959.

Mrs. Jeffers was an elementary teacher for 30 years, having taught at Chuckey Elementary for 4 years, and Eastview Elementary for 26 years.

She was a member of the Andrew Johnson Club, the Grandmother's Club, the National Teacher's Organization, TN Teacher's Organization, Greeneville/Greene County Teacher's Organization, the DAR, and is a member of Trinity United Methodist Church where she has been a member for over 60 years.

Mrs. Jeffers is survived by a son & daughter in law: Richard & Sharon Jeffers; daughter & son in law: Sharon Jeffers Hill & Warren; Grandchildren & their spouses: Brian & April Jeffers, Dan Jeffers, Neil & Anna Jeffers, Russ & Kim Hackett, Jason Hackett & Tasha Beaty, and Justin & Jennifer Jeffers; Great Grandchildren: Russell Hackett, Riley Hackett, Katy Beaty, Candace Beaty, Isaac Jeffers, Evie Jeffers, Brendan Jeffers, Jacob Rex Jeffers, Malory Jeffers, Addison Jeffers, Reid Jeffers, and Garrett Jeffers; Sister in Law: Mary Ruth Jeffers; Special Friend to her and Rex: Mack Hughes; Special Caregivers: Angie Hopson, Kathy Mercer, Maggie Sturm, Marilyn Schneller, and Yvette Carter;

The family would like to express a heartfelt thank you to the nurses and staff of Amedysis Hospice and Amedysis Home Health.

A donation was made to the TFDA Memorial Fund in honor of Mrs. Helen Gillespie Jeffers by Mr. Jerry Griffey, Knoxville, TN

Mrs. Teresa Brown Rogers

Mrs. Teresa Brown Rogers is the wife of Jim Rogers and mother of Meegan Rogers Burton, both of Rogers Funeral Home, South Pittsburg, TN.



Teresa Brown Rogers, 63, of South Pittsburg, Tennessee, died Saturday, January 4, 2020 in a Chattanooga hospital.

Born September 21, 1956 to the late Paul & Nellie Hale Brown, she lived and received her early education in Guild, Tennessee. She was a cheerleader and

1974 graduate of Marion County High School and attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. Teresa worked several years in the medical offices of Dr. Glen Petty and Dr. Paul Snyder, then worked in the office at Rogers Funeral Home until her retirement in February 2018.

For 42 years, she was an active member of Holly Avenue United Methodist Church, serving on various committees and singing in the sanctuary choir. She was also a proud member of the Judge David Campbell Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

As the youngest member of a passionate University of Tennessee football family, Teresa and her parents traveled widely to watch the Vols play. Her love for the Vols and her attendance at games continued throughout her life.

She met the love of her life in the summer of 1972 and they were married on August 20, 1977. Teresa loved her family and was a devoted daughter, sister, wife, mother, and grandmother. She often remarked that she never knew she could love anyone as much as her husband, Jim, and her children until those grandbabies came along. She was the best Nana ever.

She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Jim Rogers; children, Meegan & Gil Burton, Ben & Allison Rogers, and Adam Rogers; grandchildren, Bo Burton and Katie Burton; sister & brother-in-law, Paula & Bill Baker; brother & sister-

in-law, Eddie & Nicole Brown; nieces and nephews, Jennifer & Joe Pace, Riley Alexander, and Ellie Alexander; great-niece, Bella Pace; great-nephew, Charlie Pace; and several dear cousins.

Memories and condolences may be sent to the family by visiting www.rogersfuneralhome.com.

Arrangements are by Rogers Funeral Home, 400 Laurel Avenue, South Pittsburg, Tennessee 37380 (423-837-7176).



Mrs. Hyda R. Evans, age 62 of Rockwood, passed away peacefully at home on Monday, February 3rd, 2020. She was born on July 19th, 1957 in Rockwood, TN. Hyda was co-owner of Evans Mortuary in Rockwood with her husband, Thomas R. "Butch" Evans Jr. Her faith in Christ was evident to her family and friends. She was a prayer warrior for so many people. She taught children's choir for a number of years at Asbury Methodist Church in the Eureka Community and later attended First Baptist Church in

Rockwood. She was a loving Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Sister, Aunt, and Best Friend. Everyone who knew her felt the warm embrace of her huge heart, as she treated everyone as family and cared for so many. She is preceded in death by her parents: Van & Elizabeth Robertson, Brothers: Darryl Robertson & Richard Robertson. She leaves behind to cherish her memory:

Husband of 39 years:

Thomas R. "Butch" Evans Jr. of Rockwood, TN

Children:

Lindsey Evans Lewallen (Brad) of Knoxville, TN

Aylor Evans of Rockwood, TN

Misty Marsh (Curt) of Oakdale, TN

Grandchildren:

Rhett Nelson of Oakdale, TN

Aidan & Lydia Lewallen of Knoxville, TN

Brother:

Fred Robertson (Sandy) of Rockwood, TN

Half-sister:

Barbara Jean Bogart (Link) of Baltimore, MD

Special Friends:

Peggy Bowman, Belinda Morgan, Ellen Mynatt, and Connie Bogart

Several nieces, nephews, & cousins.

Evans Mortuary is serving the family of Mrs. Hyda R. Evans.

TFDA MEMBERS: 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

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Trends: Alkaline Hydrolysis

What is Alkaline Hydrolysis?

Alkaline hydrolysis (AH) is becoming an alternative to cremation and burial. The AH process uses heat and a solution of 95% water and 5% alkali (Potassium Hydroxide) to reduce all organic material, leaving only the inorganic minerals (the calcium phosphate of the skeletal remains). Just as with cremation, the mineral remains are processed into a powder.

Upon completion of the AH process the family receives an urn, approximately 20-30% more than with cremation, of ashes. Families can inter the urn at a cemetery, keep them at home, scatter in special places, make memorial jewelry or remembrance diamonds, create memorial plantings, etc.

There are currently 19 states, 4 Canadian Provinces, and several other countries that allow AH as a form of legal disposition with another 20 states and provinces working on amending current language.

TFDA has introduced legislation, SB1976, HB2004, that, if passed, would allow AH as a legal form of disposition in Tennessee.

A Guide to Water Cremation

Also known as Resomation, Aquamation, or Bio Cremation, here's what you may want to know about how flame-free cremation works and where it happens.

Also known as water cremation, alkaline hydrolysis is an alternative form of cremation that does not involve flames. Already offered as a funeral choice in Canada and some parts of the U.S., it is not yet available in the U.K. although plans for the first water cremation facility are currently under discussion.

What is alkaline hydrolysis?

Alkaline hydrolysis is a process which breaks down the body's tissues, leaving the person's bones, which are turned into a fine and very white "ash."

Resomation, Aquamation and Bio-Cremation are brand names associated with the process, while water cremation, liquid cremation, flameless cremation and green cremation are all terms used to describe alkaline hydrolysis.

How does alkaline hydrolysis work?

Liquid cremation uses hot water with the addition of a chemical called potassium hydroxide, or sodium hydroxide (also known as lye, or caustic soda – both used to make soap), or a mix of both. These dissolve fats and tissues into liquid.

At a bio-cremation, the person's body (but not their coffin) is placed into a stainless steel cremation chamber – like an outsized casket – which is filled with 95 per cent hot water and five per cent of potassium/sodium hydroxide.

Essentially, the process mimics and speeds up what occurs to a body naturally when someone is buried, as the body's cells

are broken down into water.

It can take around eight to 12 years for the body of someone who had a traditional burial to decompose. A water cremation takes around four hours and has been described as a 'gentler' option for the bereaved to consider.

Green cremation does not destroy the person's bones. These are placed in a cremulator and turned into an ash, which can be scattered, kept in an urn or used in memorial jewellery and other keepsakes.

Is liquid cremation safe?

Water cremation is also known as green cremation, described as an environmentally friendly choice. The alkaline hydrolysis process results in sterile bone ash, while the process also breaks down proteins in body tissues, which sterilise the liquid that is produced.

Is alkaline hydrolysis legal in the UK?

Under UK law, water cremation is legal, subject to compliance with health, safety and environmental regulation. Plans for the UK's first Resomation facility in the Midlands are currently being looked into.

The liquids produced in alkaline hydrolysis are drained away into the mains water system. Experts say these are not harmful to the environment, going through the water treatment process, just as other liquid 'wastes' do.

Alkaline hydrolysis is used in some pet cremations. It has also been used as an alternative to burial or flame pyres – following outbreaks of foot and mouth and bird flu – to eradicate harmful pathogens being released into the environment when animals or poultry die of these diseases.

Where can I have a water cremation?

Subject to planning permission and any environmental guidelines, liquid cremations could potentially become an alternative choice to flame cremation at many crematoria across the UK.

Although as yet there is no green cremation facility up and running in the UK, Resomation Ltd, which has been developing the alternative cremation technology in Leeds, hopes it will not be long.

Planning permission has been granted for a liquid cremation facility in the Midlands, but developments have been on hold, pending further guidance over how the waste water will be recycled.

How much will a water cremation cost?

It's anticipated that an eco-friendly cremation will be priced around the same that's charged for a traditional flame cremation. These costs can vary at crematoria around the UK – and the fee is usually included as part of the total funeral bill.

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PURPOSED BILL HB 1945/SB 1914

TFDA would like to thank everyone for communicating your concerns to us regarding HB 1945/SB 1914.

For those unfamiliar with this bill, If passed, HB 1945/SB 1914 would allow a person to perform, without a license, work for which a license is normally required if the recipient of the work acknowledges the person's lack of licensure and waives claims against the person. Since the introduction of HB 1945/SB 1914 TFDA has voiced our opposition and made it abundantly clear about our intent of defeating HB 1945/SB 1914 with the Members of the House and Senate Commerce Committees and the House Business Subcommittee.

TFDA has been a leader with other the other professional associations in creating a strategy designed solely for the defeat of HB 1945/SB 1914. There are numerous other professions voicing their intentions of defeating this bill including the Associations of Architects and Engineers, Land Surveyors, Realtors, Real Estate Appraisers, Dental Hygienists, Landscape Architects, to name a few.

To this point, TFDA has received positive responses resulting from our efforts of opposition to HB 1945/SB 1914. TFDA remains confident as a result of our efforts, and others, HB 1945/SB 1914 will be defeated for passage never making it out of the House and Senate Commerce Committees. We would also encourage all TFDA members to contact your legislators expressing your opposition to HB 1945/SB 1914.

As always, should you have any questions, or would like further information, please feel free to contact the TFDA office.

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