

THE THANA GRAM

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IN THIS ISSUE

CDC UPDATE
Funeral
Guidance for
Individuals
and Families

Obituaries

THANK YOU
PAC FUND
DONATIONS

Funeral
Directors
Taking Care of
Everyone But
Themselves

President's Message

Randy Nash • TFDA Board of Directors



Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It's hard to believe another year has come and gone, 2020.... what a year! If 14-year-old Randy Nash knew what knows now, he'd never believe he would have had the honor to serve as President of the Tennessee Funeral Director's Association, not just once, but twice and during a pandemic at that! Throughout all that has happened the past year, it makes my heart swell with pride when I see funeral service professionals going the extra mile to make sure that families are able to celebrate the life of their loved one in some way.

I know I have said it many times over the past two years, but it is truly an honor to serve and to give back to the profession and the people who have given so much to me.

This holiday season is sure to be a different one for all of us, but I hope you can spend time with the ones you love and hold dear. Undoubtedly, some of us may be called away from celebrations, but always remember that the families you are serving appreciate it more than you may know.

I recently read something that defined a funeral director as this: "A person who serves their community because they love people. The funeral director learns of their woes and sorrows and sympathizes; the funeral director helps solve their problems. They not only serve as a funeral director but are a combination of bondsman, counselor, civic worker, church worker, political leader and social agent, contributor to every kind of cause. They are sometimes referred to as the community's burden bearer." I thought this was a great description of what we all do. We wear many hats and serve in so many capacities, please know that it does not go unnoticed.

Friends, always know that the TFDA is here for you and is here to serve and assist in any way possible, and please stay tuned for some exciting 2021 announcements! On behalf of our TFDA Board and Staff and my family, it is my honor to wish a very Merry Christmas to you and your family.

Yours in Service Always,
Randolph R. Nash, Jr.
TFDA President



The Tennessee Funeral Directors Association Board of Directors and Staff are here for you.

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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Governor Bill Lee Appoints Carter Lawrence to Lead Department of Commerce & Insurance

Thursday, November 12, 2020 | 02:01pm

NASHVILLE, Tenn. – Today Tennessee Governor Bill Lee announced Carter Lawrence will serve in his cabinet as commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance, effective immediately.

“Carter is a proven public servant who has stewarded key priorities for the administration throughout his tenure and I’m confident he’ll continue to support Tennessee businesses and consumers with integrity,” said Gov. Lee. “We appreciate his dedication to the Department of Commerce & Insurance and look forward to his continued service.”

Lawrence currently serves as Chief Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer at the Department of Commerce & Insurance.

He has also served on Tennessee’s Economic Recovery Group throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, assisting Gov. Lee’s efforts to reboot the state’s economy.

A lifelong Tennessean and Nashville native, Lawrence earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence and a Master of Business Administration at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Prior, he graduated from Wheaton College in Illinois.

He currently resides in Nashville with his wife and three children and is a member of Nashville’s Church of the Redeemer.



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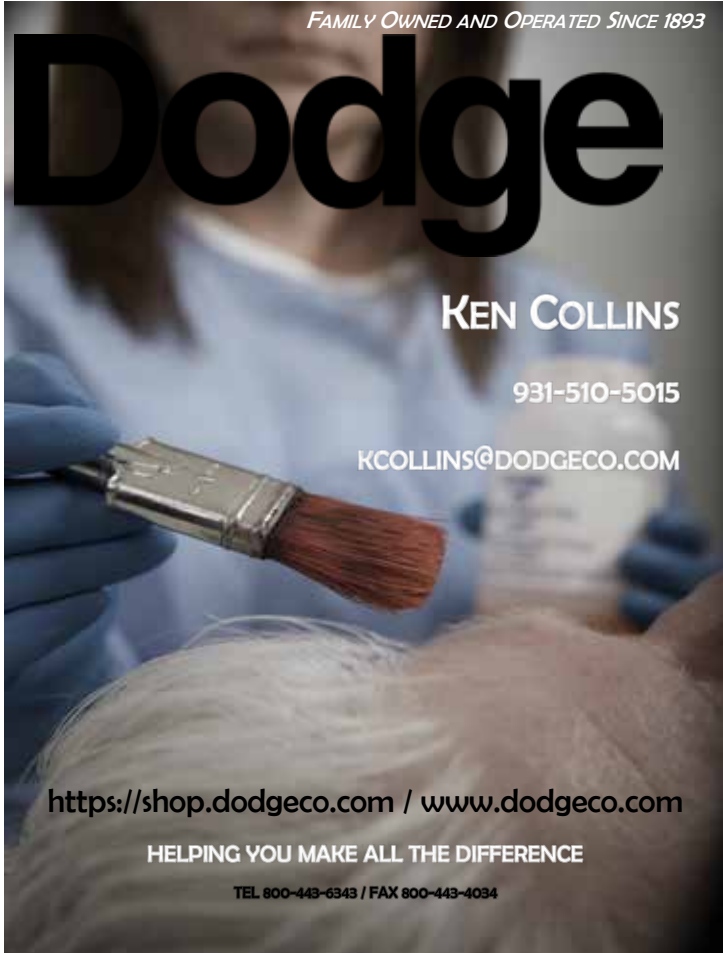
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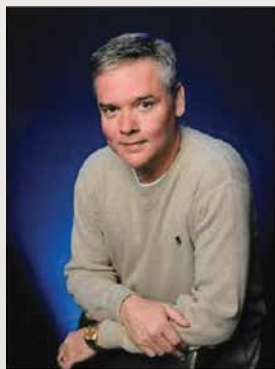
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Mike Blair (615) 308-7811
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I've been with Matthews Aurora for 22 years and a Funeral Director/Embalmer for 32 years. My travels include most of middle and west Tennessee and Western KY. Served as Past President of the Tennessee Funeral Supply Sales Club. Reda and I have a son, Brandon and we call Franklin, TN home.



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.



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
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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 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
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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.



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 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.



Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
from your
Matthews Aurora
Funeral Solutions
Team



From: Tennessee Funeral Directors Association

Date: October 26, 2020

To: Funeral Director

Subject: The Funeral Home Portal from LexisNexis VitalChek

The Tennessee Funeral Directors Association has recently partnered with LexisNexis VitalChek so you can have access to their Funeral Home Portal application. This simple, secure web-based application offers you the ability to quickly order and pay for multiple copies of death certificates for up to five decedents per order with a single, secure login saving you time and resources when they are at a premium. Once your order is complete, it will be delivered to you by UPS Express delivery or first class mail, thus eliminating the need to visit the vital record office in person.

For more information or to get started, simply email the following to fhportalsupport@vitalchek.com:

- Funeral Home name and address
- Your name
- Your Email address
- Vitals Agencies to which you are associated
- Include Order Code TFDA2020

Once you submit your information, a VitalChek representative will contact you to further discuss the ordering process.

We look forward to improving the efficiency in serving your clients' needs for these important records.

— CDC UPDATE —

YOUR HEALTH

Funeral Guidance for Individuals and Families

Updated Nov. 2, 2020

Grieving the loss of a loved one during the fear and anxiety about the COVID-19 pandemic can be overwhelming. It may be difficult for people to make decisions about how to safely grieve and honor their loved one. This guidance is for individuals and families as they work with funeral directors, community and religious leaders, and others to plan and hold funeral services and visitations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Help lower the risk of spreading COVID-19 by following these guiding principles.

Guiding Principles

- The more people interact, the closer in distance the interaction is (less than 6 feet), and the longer the interaction lasts, the higher the risk of spreading COVID-19.
- The higher the level of community transmission in an area, the higher the risk of spreading COVID-19.
- Masks help lower the risk of spreading COVID-19, particularly if social distancing cannot be maintained.
- During an in-person gathering, convene in outdoors or in well-ventilated areas, if possible, rather than poorly ventilated, indoor areas to help lower risk of spreading COVID-19. Outdoor gatherings are safer than indoor gatherings.
- Avoid sharing commonly used objects such as religious aids (e.g., religious books, collection plates, programs, etc.) to help lower the risk of spreading COVID-19.
- Reducing the number of people who are engaged in activities like singing or chanting as these behaviors can increase the amount of respiratory virus in the air.
- Practice increased hand hygiene, and cleaning and disinfection of frequently touched surfaces and objects to help lower the risk of spreading COVID-19.
- Practice social distancing by maintaining at least 6 feet between attendees; facility or lay staff; and clergy or officiants, especially when small, in-person services are held.
- Take extra precautions for those at increased risk for COVID-19, particularly those who are older or have pre-existing conditions, to help lower the risk of spreading COVID-19.

The risk of COVID-19 spreading at gatherings and services is ranked as follows, from lowest to highest:

Lowest risk: Virtual-only services and gatherings.

Lower risk: Smaller outdoor, in-person services and gatherings in which individuals from different households remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, wear masks, do not share objects, and come from the same local area (e.g., community, town, city, or county).

Higher risk: Medium-sized in-person services and gatherings, either indoors or outdoors, adapted to allow individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart, with some individuals wearing face masks and with some attendees coming from outside the local area. Sharing of items or objects is limited.

Highest risk: Large in-person services and gatherings held indoors and where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart; many attendees travel from outside the local area. Few individuals wear masks and objects are shared.

In some situations, many people have become sick with COVID-19 after attending a funeral service. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in communities, changes need to be made to the way funerals, visitations, and memorials to the deceased are held. This guidance provides strategies to protect yourself and others when you are grieving the loss of a loved one, supporting each other, making funeral arrangements, and participating in funeral services and visitations. Some examples include:

- Using technology to connect virtually with family and friends during the grieving process.
- Considering modified funeral arrangements, such as limiting attendance at funerals held during shortly after the time of death to a small number of immediate family members and friends; and then holding additional memorial services when social distancing guidelines are less restrictive.
- Practicing social distancing by maintaining at least 6 feet between attendees, facility staff, and clergy or officiants when small, in-person services are held.
- Considering modifications to funeral rites and rituals (for example, avoid touching the deceased person's body or personal belongings or other ceremonial objects) to make sure of everyone's safety.



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- Wearing masks while around others and outside of your home.

Grieving the loss of a loved one

Grief is a normal response to losing someone important to you. When a loved one dies, it is important for friends and family to be able to share stories and memories of the person and how they influenced their lives. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the ability of friends and family to come together in person and grieve in typical ways. This is true regardless of whether the person's death was due to COVID-19 or some other cause.

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, hosting gatherings now could be dangerous to those who would want to participate. Family and friends are finding alternate ways to connect, support each other, and grieve after their loss. They understand the need to possibly plan for additional memorial services when COVID-19-related restrictions are lifted.

Take actions to help you cope with the loss of a loved one. Grief is a universal emotion, but no two people experience grief in exactly the same way. Some actions you can take to help you cope with feelings of grief while practicing social distancing and honoring your loved one include:

- Invite people to call you, or host conference calls with family members and friends to stay connected.
- Ask family and friends to share stories and pictures with you via phone, video chat, email, text message, photo sharing apps, social media, or mailed letters.
- Create a virtual memory book, blog, or webpage to remember your loved one, and ask family and friends to contribute their memories and stories.
- Coordinate a date and time for family and friends to honor your loved one by reciting a selected poem, spiritual reading, or prayer from within their own households. Some cultures practice a prolonged mourning period with multiple observances, so hosting virtual events now and in-person events later may be in keeping with these practices.
- Seek spiritual support from faith-based organizations, including religious leaders and congregations, if applicable. People who are not part of a faith tradition or religious community can seek support from other

trusted community leaders and friends.

- Use grief counseling services, support groups, or hotlines external icon, especially those that can be offered over the phone or online, or seek support from a mental healthcare provider.
- Read books about grief and loss. If you have children, read age-appropriate books with them and talk with them about how they are feeling.
- Take part in an activity that has significance to you and the loved one you have lost, such as planting flowers or a tree or preparing a favorite meal, in memory of your loved one.
- Review additional information from CDC on loss and grief, and ways to cope with stress and anxiety.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the family and close friends of a person who died of COVID-19 may experience stigma, such as people avoiding them or rejecting them. Stigma hurts everyone by creating fear or anger toward other people. Some people may avoid contact with you, your family members, and friends when they would normally reach out to you. You can help stop stigma related to COVID-19 by knowing the facts and sharing them with extended family, friends, and others in your community.

Making Funeral Arrangements

- COVID-19 does not need to affect whether the funeral takes place through burial or cremation. Wishes of your deceased family member or friend may continue to be honored.
- In general, there is no need to delay funeral services and visitations due to COVID-19. However, some changes to traditional practices are likely needed. Family members may need to discuss timing of services with funeral service providers, who may be overwhelmed.
- COVID-19 is a new disease, and we are still learning how it spreads. There is currently no known risk associated with being in the same room at a funeral service or visitation with the body of a deceased person who had confirmed or suspected COVID-19 after the body has been prepared for viewing.
- Take precautions when planning and holding funeral services and visitations to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among those in attendance, including those who may not have symptoms.

Practice social distancing while making funeral arrangements

- Consider having virtual or phone meetings instead of in-person meetings with funeral home staff, cemetery staff, clergy or officiants, and others to plan funeral



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arrangements.

- If you need to meet in person, follow everyday preventive actions to protect yourself and others from COVID-19, such as wearing a mask, social distancing, washing your hands often, and covering coughs and sneezes.
- Do not attend in-person meetings if you are sick or if you might have been exposed to COVID-19. Those who have higher risk of severe illness should weigh the benefits of in-person attendance against risk of exposure to a person with COVID-19, especially if recommendations for wearing masks and social distancing may be difficult to follow for themselves or others.

Discuss options for making changes to traditional funeral plans

- Discuss your cultural or religious traditions and the funeral wishes of the deceased, if applicable, with family members and the people you are working with (funeral home staff, clergy, or officiants).
 - Identify any potential concerns and determine options to make changes to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Preserve traditional practices when it is possible to safely do so, and identify whether modified or new practices could satisfy the needs and values of you and your loved one.
- Consider whether it would be acceptable to hold modified funeral arrangements by limiting attendance to a small number of immediate family members and friends shortly after the time of death. Consider holding additional memorial services in the future when social distancing guidelines are less restrictive.
 - When you are making decisions about who should attend, consider how emotionally difficult social distancing practices might be for attendees (such as keeping at least 6 feet apart and not hugging other attendees who do not live in their household).
- Ask the people you are working with (funeral home staff, clergy, or officiant) about resources they may be able to provide, such as:

- Virtual funeral services, visitations, and memorial tributes by online video streaming or recorded video. Consider potential issues with virtual attendees' access to technology and high-speed internet, as well as how any technological difficulties during the service could impact the event.
- Online guestbooks or memory books that invite people to share stories, notes of condolence, or photos.
- Assistance with sharing details about the plan for funeral services and visitations with extended family and friends, including how to compassionately communicate any changes to traditional practices and the reasons they are necessary.

Holding funeral services and visitations

Familial and cultural expectations might put pressure on you and others to participate in or hold or schedule funeral services and visitations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, those expectations may need to be relaxed to protect the safety of those who would have participated. People continue to get exposed to COVID-19 at funeral services; the people giving it to others were not feeling sick at the time and did not know they were carrying or spreading COVID-19.

Consider the following modifications to funeral services and visitations to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. These modifications are recommended for events held in any setting, including funeral homes, cemetery facilities, places of worship, private homes, and other venues.

- Limit the attendees to a small number of immediate family and close friends
- Follow the guidelines from state and local officials and state and local external health departments.
- Those who are sick, have a household member or other close contact who is sick. Those who have higher risk of severe illness should weigh the benefits of in-person attendance against risk of exposure to a person with COVID-19, especially if recommenda-

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tions for wearing masks and social distancing may be difficult to follow for themselves or others

- Consider limiting the number of people from different areas of the country or any areas with significant spread of COVID-19.
- Consider offering other ways for family and friends to participate, such as by phone or online (live or recorded).
- Practice social distancing and everyday preventive actions
- Consider holding services and gatherings in a large, well-ventilated area or outdoors, as circumstances and traditions allow.
- Space out seating for attendees who do not live in the same household to at least 6 feet apart between household groups.
- Attendees who do not live in the same household should stay at least 6 feet (2 meters) apart and wear a mask when interacting with people who do not live in their household.
- People who have been living in the same household can comfort each other in typical ways such as hugging, holding hands, and sitting next to each other.
- Attendees should nod, bow, or wave instead of holding or shaking hands, hugging, or kissing anyone who does not live in their household.
- Consider limiting the number of people engaged in activities that produce respiratory droplets, which may contain virus, (e.g., singing or chanting) especially when participants are indoors and in close proximity to each other. If attendees choose to sing or chant, encourage them to wear masks and increase distance between people to greater than 6 feet.
- All attendees should follow everyday preventive actions to protect themselves and others from COVID-19, such as washing your hands often and covering coughs and sneezes.

Consider changing traditional rituals or practices

Discuss with the funeral home director, clergy or officiant, and your family any potential changes that might be necessary to protect all of the participants and attendees. Consider options for modified or new practices that would be acceptable to you and your family and friends, such as:

- Holding a graveside-only service.
- Changing or removing funeral practices that involve close contact or sharing things among members of different households, such as:
- Sharing a car or limousine ride between the church and cemetery.
- Providing food and beverages for attendees after the service.

- Changing religious rituals in consultation with clergy and other religious leaders.

If some traditions, such as certain religious rituals, sharing rides to the gravesite, or having food and beverages, are considered essential to you and your family and friends, consider modifying them.

- Limit sharing of items, such as worship aids, prayer books, and other items shared or passed by clergy and attendees during religious rituals.
- Group household members together inside the vehicle. Avoid having non-household members sharing vehicles to travel between locations during the services; if necessary, increase ventilation by opening windows or using the air conditioner on non-recirculating mode.
- If food is offered at a reception, have individual pre-packaged boxes or bags instead of a potluck, buffet, or family-style meal. Avoid sharing of foods and utensils.

In some cultures, bringing food or gifts to grieving family members is an important way to express care and concern. During the COVID-19 pandemic, consider expressing care in ways that do not involve personal interactions. Consider delivering food or gifts to grieving family members in ways that keep people at least 6 feet apart, mailing care packages, or giving families gift cards for food delivery services.

Avoid touching the deceased person's body before preparation.

There are many different cultural traditions involved in the bereavement process, including some that involve touching the deceased person's body before preparation. Though we are still learning more about how COVID-19 spreads, it may be possible that you could get COVID-19 by touching the body of a deceased person who had confirmed or suspected COVID-19 prior to the body being prepared for viewing. After the body has been prepared for viewing, there may be less of a chance of the virus spreading from certain types of touching, such as holding the hand or hugging. Take steps to protect yourself, such as:

- Avoid touching, hugging, or kissing the body of a deceased person who had confirmed or suspected COVID-19 before and during body preparation, especially if you or a member of your household are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19.
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after any contact with the body. If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.

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Take precautions with rituals that involve touching the deceased person's body

If the deceased person had confirmed or suspected COVID-19, avoid kissing, washing, or shrouding the body before, during, and after the body has been prepared, if possible. Take precautions if participating in these activities is part of important religious or cultural practices.

- Work with your cultural and religious leaders and funeral home staff to identify how to reduce exposure as much as possible.
- People at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19 and members of their household should not be involved in these activities.
- People conducting these activities should wear disposable gloves (nitrile, latex, or rubber). Additional protective equipment may also be required, such as disposable and waterproof isolation gowns, face shields or goggles, and facemasks (e.g., if splashing of fluids is expected).
- Following preparation of the body, safely remove gloves (and other protective equipment, if used) and throw them away. Immediately wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Shower as soon as possible.
- If you did not wear an isolation gown while preparing the body, wash your clothes in the warmest setting possible and dry them completely.
- If removing personal possessions (such as wedding rings) from the body or casket, clean and disinfect external icon the items and wash hands right away.

Safely gather your loved one's belongings

If desired, you may retrieve the belongings of a loved one who has died of COVID-19 outside their home (for example, in a hospital setting). Depending on local rules and regulations, family members may retrieve these belongings at the funeral home or the healthcare facility.

You should use gloves and practice good hand hygiene when handling your loved ones' belongings. Depending on the type of belongings, such as electronics, you should also follow the household item-specific cleaning and disinfection guidelines when handling these items.

Additional Information

- Guidance on funeral and burial services for American Indians and Alaska Natives
- Guidance on if your family member died from COVID-19 while overseas
- If the deceased person had confirmed or suspected COVID-19, follow CDC guidelines to clean and disinfect the home and any items that will be removed from the home.



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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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Obituaries



Mr. John William Pittman, father of Emily Layne and father-in-law of Dale Layne, Layne Funeral Homes. Dale Layne, TFDA Middle Director 2016 – 19.

Mr. John William Pittman, 85, passed away Sunday August 30, 2020 at the Sheltering Arms Home in Palmer, Tennessee. He was born in Nashville, Tennessee on January 12, 1935. He was preceded in death by

his father, Virgil Bolton Pittman; mother, Mattie Cargile Pittman; sisters, Ella Ann Morris, Norma Jean Hess, Mary Elizabeth “Bussy” Cameron and Kitty Lou Cloud.

John was a member of the Church of Christ at Altamont and was a member of the Stevenson First United Methodist Church and resident of Stevenson, Alabama for many years before moving to Tennessee. He was a graduate of Auburn University in 1971 with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. He owned and operated the Pittman Drug Company in South Pittsburg, Tennessee for almost 30 years before becoming a partner of The Drug Store at South Pittsburg. Big John had many jobs at the pharmacy, including pharmacist, mentor, friend and last but not least sanitation engineer before retiring well into his 70’s. John loved Auburn football (War Eagle!) and visiting with his friends at the local restaurants and music events. He loved converting family and friends to his beloved Auburn Tigers(Cayce, Lesley, Meg and Jimmy). He was a member and Past Master of Bolivar Lodge #127 F&AM and served as Past Patron of the Order of Eastern Star, both at Stevenson, Alabama. He was a veteran of the United States Army.

He is survived by his devoted wife of 57 years, Betty Lyda Pittman; son, John (Kim) Pittman, Hartselle, AL; daughters, Myra (Russell) Gamble, Stevenson, AL and Emily (Dale) Layne, Coalmont, TN; grandchildren, Britney (Cody) Smith, Tiffany Pittman, Jacob and Caleb Pittman; Kathryn (Brian) Wileman, Jacob and Ethan Gamble, Amber (Johnny) Hendon,

Sara Beth and Oliver Layne; great grandchildren, Brayston, Sam and Hank Hendon, Anna Kathryn Wileman, Mason and Mattie Smith; several loving nieces and nephews.

Layne Funeral Home, Inc.

Steven Mark Rose was born November 22, 1967 and passed away unexpectedly at home earlier this



week., September 23, 2020. He proudly served in the United States Navy for 27 years before retiring as Damage Controlman Chief in 2009. He brought joy to those around him and will be missed. He was preceded in death by his father, Fred A. Rose. He was survived by mother, Sue Gibson and husband Don; brother, Tim Rose; sister, Michele Rose; brother, Jason Rose; sister, Lisa Gibson and husband Alan; brother, Lynn Gibson and wife, Angelia; son, Sargent Ryan Rose; daughter, Heather Horton and husband Brandon; son, Jason Tyler Rose and wife Nicolette; daughter, Brenna Rodriguez and husband Anthony; son, Peyton Rose and girlfriend Hope; 4 grandsons, 6 granddaughters; close uncle Gary Davidson and wife Edna; spouse, Tammy Rose; and his loving nieces and nephews. Smith Funeral & Cremation Service, Maryville, 983-1000.

www.SmithFuneralandCremation.com



Doug Akins was a second-generation Funeral Director and TFDA member and his grandson is on track to graduate John A. Gupton College in December to be 4th generation.

Mr. James “Douglas” Akins, age 72, of Blue Ridge, GA, passed

away on October 12, 2020 in the Life Care Center of Copper Basin. Mr. Akins was born on November 25, 1947 in Blue Ridge, GA to the late Raymond Douglas Akins and Wanda Vandiver Akins. He was a 1966 graduate of West Fannin High School, a 1968 graduate of John A. Gupton College of Funeral Service, and later furthered his education at North Georgia College. Mr. Akins served as a licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer for over fifty years owning and operating Akins Funeral Home in Blue Ridge, GA and Copperhill, TN. He was very active in the community that he served. He was a devoted volunteer Firefighter with the McCaysville Fire Department as well as being instrumental in the formation of the Fannin County Recreation Department. Mr. Akins served as Chairman of the Fannin County Chamber of Commerce in 1996 and was also a member of the Board of Directors for United Community Bank in McCaysville, GA. He was a long-time member and formerly served as a Deacon of First Baptist Church McCaysville/Copperhill. Other civic organizations include the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Georgia Funeral Directors Association, National Funeral Directors Association, The Independent Funeral Group, and Blue Ridge Lodge #67 F&AM.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Melba Arp Akins of Blue Ridge, GA; son and daughter-in-law, Chet and Laurie

Akins of Blue Ridge, GA; daughters and son-in-law, Dorinda and Dwayne Cobb of Blue Ridge, GA and Amanda Thomas of Blue Ridge, GA; brother, Van Akins of Blue Ridge, GA; sister, Mary Kay Carlisle of Blue Ridge, GA; grandchildren, Ashley (Marty) Prince, Blythe Dawson, Trudy Cobb, Blake Cobb, Amelia Akins, Claire Cobb, Olivia Akins, Jack Dlugokinski, C.J. Akins, Jade Dlugokinski, and Ryles Thomas; great grandchildren, Molly Prince, Dexter Dawson, and Emma Prince; mother-in-law, Kathleen Arp of Blue Ridge, GA; several nieces and nephews, extended family, and other relatives and friends.

Condolences may be sent to the family online at www.akersfuneralhome.com. Akins Funeral Home of Blue Ridge, GA is in charge of the arrangements.



Mr. Hershel L. Hillis is the father of Kim Chisam, office manager at Murfreesboro Funeral Home, Murfreesboro, TN.

Hershel L. Hillis, age 77, of McMinnville, Tennessee, passed away October 26, 2020, after an extended illness. Mr. Hillis was preceded in death by his parents, Audrey B. and Willie Hillis and wife, Nadine Rogers Hillis. Born in Warren County, on November 21, 1942,

Mr. Hillis made Warren County his lifelong home but nevertheless, was a storied traveler; logging over a million miles as a cross-country truck driver for Batesville. During his tenure, he traveled to all 48 contiguous states and parts of Canada. His love of the road could also be found in his fondness for antique cars. However, no hobby or activity could compare to the love he held for his friends and family. On October 27, 1962, he married the love of his life, Nadine Rogers, and the couple raised their children in a home full of warmth, kindness and faithfulness. Mr. Hillis was a devoted member of Philadelphia The Baptist Church and an Army National Guard Veteran. He was also well known for his hearty laugh and his uncanny ability to weave a captivating story from his years on the road. He never ran short of tall tales nor did he run short of folks lined up to hear about his adventures. Mr. Hillis is survived by his son, Greg (Charlotte) Hillis of McMinnville, TN; daughter, Kim (John) Chisam of McMinnville, TN; grandsons, Dustin (Kevin) Chisam of McMinnville, TN and David Hillis of Kennesaw, GA; granddaughter, Nika Bolhuis of Calhoun, GA; brothers, Harold B. (Jeri) Hillis and Darrell (Rhonda) Hillis, both of McMinnville, TN; sister, Donna (Rick) Vandygriff of Morrison, TN; special great-niece, Hillari Hale; five nephews, Dickey (Tawana) Hillis, Joshua Logan Vandygriff, Braeden Hillis Vandygriff, Jamie (Beverly) Hollis and Nick (Melissa) Hollis; three nieces, Vickey (Tommy) Moore, Mandy (Craig) Norris and Conethia Cantrell; and a host of extended family and special friends. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to the Philadelphia Cemetery, c/o Charles Killian, 555 Wanamaker Rd., McMinnville, TN 37110 Murfreesboro Funeral Home is in charge

of arrangements.

Miss Christine Dillon, long time employee/friend of Smith Funeral Home, Woodbury, TN



Miss Christine Dillon, 87, a lifelong resident and native of Woodbury passed away on November 7, 2020. She was born in the Sunny Slope Community of Woodbury on August 8, 1933 to the late Herbert John Dillon and Gladys Francis Dillon. She is also preceded in death her

brothers, Frank Boyd Dillon and John Hopkins Dillon, sisters, Rachel Haley and Julia Muszynski; half-brothers, Stanton Tenny and Leon Dillon and half-sister, Grace Brown Dillon; niece, Robin Haley Spry and long time, special friend and business partner, Bill Smith.

She is survived by her sisters, Martha Brandon of Nashville and Elizabeth Rowe of Dunnellon, FL; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extend special family, Steve Smith, Joe and Lindsay Patterson, Blaire Smith, and Gabe Patterson, and many friends and church family.

She grew up on her family's farm in the Sunny Slope Community. Like most families then everyone had to pitch in to survive. She helped milk cows, feed the livestock, and tend to her younger siblings. Never one to be lazy she kept busy working throughout her whole life. Early on she also worked for Mr. Henry Hoover in his dairy business. She was a graduate of Woodbury Central High School in the Class of 1951. Shortly after graduating she got a job with Dr. J. F. Adams at the Bank of Commerce. This is where she met lifelong friend and business partner, Bill Smith. They worked together until she temporarily retired after 45 years with the bank. While at the bank she helped with many different projects associated with the bank and Cannon County. She was very instrumental in helping get the initial funding for the Arts Center of Cannon County. She also helped with many other community events and Cannon County Good Ole Days, Bank of Commerce Cloggers, Cannon County Historical Society, Woodbury Lions Club, Adams Memorial Library, Cannon County Walking Horse Association, Riverside Cemetery Association, and many others. Even with all the involvement with work and the community she found time to go to night classes at MTSU and earned her bachelor's degree. She was a devoted and lifelong member of the Woodbury Church of Christ. She took time every morning to read her Bible. She kept herself healthy by walking every day.

After her family sold their farm, she always had a longing to be back on the farm. She was able to buy back the family farm and have cattle and horses. In her younger years she loved to go horseback riding with family and friends. She kept a love for farming, horses, and cattle as long as she lived. Her love of people and Cannon County opened an opportunity to serve by going into business with her friend, Bill Smith, his son, Mike Smith, and Tim Gentry at Smith Funeral Home. She had

helped Mike through the years at Smith Funeral Home when he opened in 1971 and in 1999, they decided to remodel Bill's parents' home and continue serving the community as Smith Funeral Home. She worked at the funeral home up until the time of her passing. She shared a special bond with Bill Smith and his family over the years and considered them family. She loved people and loved to cut up and carry on with her family and friends. Growing up her family made up nicknames for each other. Most of her close friends and family knew her by and called her "Crip" after a western sheriff in a movie they saw. Her family enjoyed getting together for many holiday meals, reunions, and get togethers. She loved her nieces and nephews as though they were her own children as well as Bill Smith's family. She loved to get and give big hugs, share a good laugh with family and friends, and tell you what she thought about things. Her work ethic, humor, loving nature, and giving attitude will long be remembered. www.smithfuneralhomewoodbury.net, Smith Funeral Home, 303 Murfreesboro Rd. Woodbury, TN 37190, 615-563-5337



Carrie L. McCreight is the mother of Terry McCreight, owner of McCreight Funeral Home in Dyersburg, TN.

Mrs. Carrie Lee McCreight, age 79 of Dyersburg died Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at West Tennessee Healthcare-Dyersburg. Survivors include her Daughters, Karen Light-Author

(David) Henderson, Nevada, Dr. Angela Lyte-(Keith) Crowther, Ocean Shores, Washington, Gwendolyn McCreight, Nashville, TN., Charlotte Denise McCreight, Dyersburg, TN. Sons, Harvey (Vera) Lyte, Memphis, TN., W. Terry (Patricia) McCreight, Antonio McCreight, Dyersburg, TN. Kevin McCreight, Henderson, Nevada. 21 Grandchildren, 12 Great Grandchildren. Sisters, Florene Light Jones, Dyersburg, TN., Norma Jean Light Netterville, St. Louis, Mo., Brothers, Lonnie (Gladys) Light, YZ Lyte, Dyersburg, TN. You may share your memories and condolences with the family at www.mccreightfuneralhome.com. McCreight Funeral Home 1607 Hornbrook St. Dyersburg, TN. Ph. 731-286-4810.



Carl "Buck" Conners, grandfather of secretary, Deborah Slack Smith at Bordwine Funeral Home in Etowah and funeral director, Michael Slack with Biereley Hale Funeral Home in Madisonville.

Carl Eugene "Buck" Conner, 99, of Etowah, TN went home to be with his Heavenly Father on

November 10, 2020. He was born October 22, 1921 in Englewood, TN to J. Henry and Nellie Wood Conner.

Buck was a longtime member of North Etowah Baptist Church and a WWII Veteran serving with Corps of Engineers in the Battle of Angaur and Peleliu Islands.

Preceded in death by his wife, Anna Reba Conner and great-granddaughter, Abra Noel Perian; two sisters, Marie Galloway, Helen Watson; and one brother, Bill Conner.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, Don and Wanda Slack of Etowah, TN; four grandchildren and their spouses, David and Jan Slack of Morristown, TN, Michael and Teri Slack of Madisonville, TN, Deborah and Tim Smith of Athens, TN, Charles and Rita Slack of Etowah, TN; 12 great-grandchildren; 23 great-great-grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law, James "Jim" and Cherry Conner of Etowah, TN; one sister, Edna Davis of Ducktown, TN.

Great-grandsons, Derek Slack, Don-Michael Slack, Heath Slack, Marcus Adams, Jimmie Shofner and great-great-grandson, Jacob Hicks will serve as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Samaritan Shoe Box Ministry or Lottie Moon Christmas offering C/O North Etowah Baptist Church, 231 PA Ave., Etowah, TN 37331.



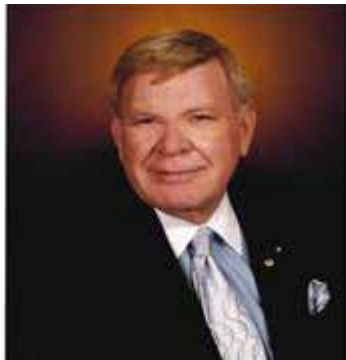
Gloria Elizabeth Creswell Jones, age 94 of Milan, passed away on November 27, 2020 at Northbrook Healthcare in Jackson. Gloria was born on September 3, 1926 to Herman Charles and Lallie Mae Sims Creswell. She was a member of the First United Methodist in Milan and she was a former member of the Milan First United Presbyterian

USA Church where she was very active. She was the wife of former TFDA President Ralph Jones (deceased) and mother of Bodkin Funeral Home, owner John R. Jones, Jr.

Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband John Ralph Jones, Sr., a brother Herman Charles Creswell and a sister Martha Alexander. Gloria is survived by two children John R. Jones, Jr. (Doreen) of Milan and Kathleen Creswell Carroll (Chris) of Jackson, a sister Betty McKelvey of Port Isabel, TX, six grandchildren Harris Jones of Memphis, Jennifer Chaney (Jon) of Murfreesboro, Julie Davis (Brad) of Milan, Lee Maness (Bethany) of Brentwood, Jonathan Carroll (Rachel) of Knoxville and Katey Carroll of Jackson ten great grandchildren and one great grandchild to be born soon.

In lieu of flowers, memorial may be directed to the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis.

Bodkin Funeral Home - 731-686-3111



Edward McNew English, 82, of Signal Mountain, died Thursday, December 3, 2020. Ed was President of Lane Funeral Home, Ashland Terrace. He attended the University of Tennessee, Knoxville and served four years in the United States Air Force. Ed was a member of The Point Church at Signal. Survivors include his

wife of 49 years, Deborah Coulter English; son, John Coulter English; and granddaughter, Sarah Elizabeth English. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Point Church at Signal. Interment will be held privately at Chattanooga National Cemetery. Arrangements entrusted to Lane Funeral

Home, 601 Ashland Terrace, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37415. (423) 877-3524 LaneFH.com

Patty Jones Peckenpaugh, 89, of Dyersburg, died Friday, December 4, 2020, at her residence. Born January 17, 1931, she was the daughter of the late Van Edward and Jewell McDa-



vid Jones. She served 38 years as bookkeeper for Belew & Ray Drugs, followed by another 11 years as bookkeeper for C&C Pharmacy, before retiring. Patty was a member of First Baptist Church. She was known for always having a chocolate pie ready whenever someone was sick or in times of death.

She is survived by her son, Kim "Peck" Peckenpaugh (Patsy) of Dyersburg; two grandchildren, Catybeth French (Preston) of Newbern, and Mary Evelyn Ramsey (Skylar) of Covington; and two great-grandchildren, Emma French and River Ramsey.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William Norris Peckenpaugh; one sister, Betty Jones Pennington; and one brother, Vernon Jones.

The family requests memorials be directed to First Baptist Church, Dyersburg, Building Fund.

We are privileged and honored to serve the Peckenpaugh family. You may share your condolences and your memories with the family at www.curryfuneral.com.

A donation was made to the TFDA Memorial Fund in memory of John "Bubba" Woodfin

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A Well Deserved Thank You

2020 has turned out to be a year like no other. Witnessing a nation politically polarized and a presidential election, that of this writing, may not yet be officially decided, are things most of us could do without. And then the pandemic. Never being in this type of situation, who could have anticipated the life-altering changes that would take place, and how everyday lives would be affected? The tail end, and then the exit, of the year 2020 cannot come too soon.

Not all has been dreadful. There are several examples of folks pulling together and helping others through this difficult time. One such example, The TFDA Board of Directors had to face the question regarding the 2020 TFDA-TFSSC Convention in Chattanooga. It quickly came apparent to proceed as planned would create such a potential health hazard the Convention would need to be cancelled. TFDA sent the out the cancellation notice and obviously offered refunds to all pre-paid exhibitors. Although TFDA did send refunds, there were several companies who chose to not take the refund and donated their pre-paid fees to TFDA. TFDA will be forever grateful for the generosity shown by these companies. These companies are proudly listed on the TFDA website.

Another example, the TFDA PAC Fund. With no Convention the Silent Auction fundraiser for the TFDA PAC could not be held in 2020. The Silent Auction is the major, and some years the only, fundraiser for TFDA political efforts; another obstacle presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, life goes on. TFDA reached out to the membership explaining the dilemma and simply asking for donations. TFDA members revealed their resilience when times are bad with an outpouring of generosity donating well over the amount of funds anticipated.

The TFDA Board of Directors, and staff, would like to express our gratitude and appreciation to the following TFDA members for their selfless generosity:

THANK YOU PAC FUND DONATIONS 2020 -2021

Anglin Funeral Home, Dover	Kyker Funeral Homes, Sweetwater
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Karnes & Son Funeral Home, Rutherford	Woodbine Funeral Home, Nashville
Kyker Funeral Home, Harriman	Yarbrough Mortuary Services, Jackson
Kyker Funeral Home, Kingston	

Funeral Directors Taking Care of Everyone But Themselves

Every job has its unique challenges, and being a funeral director is no exception. When you meet a funeral director, you are hopefully met with a compassionate human being who exhibits



all the appropriate decorum for the preparation of a sad event that surrounds a funeral service. There is much to be taken care of whether or not you were prepared for the passing of a loved one. All around, a funeral director is a caregiver. This professional not only takes care of the details for viewing, memorial service music, funeral bulletins, eulogies and much more but is a shoulder



to lean on for the bereaved. While outwardly a funeral director may appear calm and in charge, there's a lot going on behind the scenes that causes stress.

Unfortunately, many funeral directors don't operate with any personal boundaries. They often receive phone calls 24/7 for assistance, including the wee hours of the morning. For example, it is not uncommon for a hospice nurse to call a funeral director in the middle of the night requesting a pickup of the body for someone who has expired. Shortly after, another phone call

comes in that another family is waiting for them at the funeral home for assistance. This lack of personal boundaries can often leave you vulnerable and can lead to depression. Family activities like attending a son's soccer game or leisure activities must be cancelled to take care of business. It's easy to be torn between the needs of your family and the needs of those you serve. Directors are also prone to evolving into workaholics. Many funeral homes are small businesses and lack the staff for shift work. It goes hand in hand with a lack of personal boundaries. Business may thrive and customers may be happy, but funeral directors wind up not spending time with their own families. Substance abuse and depression is often the end result.

When you think about it, funeral directors are faced with the reality of death 24/7. This immersion in death isolates them by profession. While you may not think you're loved ones passing affects a funeral director, the constant passing of human beings does affect emotions. It is not uncommon for funeral directors to feel internally agitated and moody. The bottom line is that death makes funeral directors different. They can easily be pulled into the whole narrative of death and lose themselves.

By profession, funeral directors develop a high emotional pain tolerance to death. It's almost a syndrome that cannot be avoided. Funeral directors that do a good job will often immerse themselves into the family's situation and even make it harder on their own emotions. The constant exposure to death and unfortunate circumstances numbs the feelings. Depersonalization and lack of empathy can occur and scare off friends and family. It's almost as though death chips away at one's own humanity. They lose the ability to empathize with anything less than death. If you go through a tough breakup with a significant other, funeral director often minimize the experience with comments like "Well, at least you're still alive." It's easy to see how this transformation can adversely affect one's personal relationships.



Funeral Directors Need To Be Their Own Caregivers

Like most other caregivers, funeral directors often focus on caring for others and neglect self-care. Along with operating a 24/7 business with economic responsibilities, the demands of providing comfort for the bereaved can take its toll. Burn-out is common and known as "funeral director fatigue" or "compassion fatigue syndrome." Before the final crash, there are many warning signs, including:

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- Isolation from others
- Depression and physical complaints
- Irritability and impatience
- Detachment and cynicism
- Loss of energy and exhaustion

There are a number of steps that funeral directors can take to avoid burn-out. Embracing modern technology can help streamline the workload. Instead of being tied down to the funeral home location to secure new business and provide families with 24/7 service, funeral directors can use pages and smart phones to conduct business more efficiently. Your funeral homes website is often now the first contact with a customer. A good website will educate and guide people to the solutions they need. Some sites even allow funeral or cremation services to be arranged online. A good answering Service for Directors like (ASD) can be an absolute godsend and help you relax more. Calls are screened to address urgent issues, and users can even log onto the web to see the activity of calls. With these modern services, business can be conducted from any location. Funeral directors can also hire removal services to transport decedents and lessen the workload with software companies that have developed programs to speed up the process of obituary placement, death certificate filing and much more. Moving away from the traditional funeral home business model of 24/7 availability still allows funeral directors to provide families with a personal touch. It's just a different way of doing business.



Make Time For You!

Taking time to enjoy life with family and engaging in hobbies is an effective way to help reduce the stress. It also takes one away from the

thoughts of death and to the thoughts of living life. Outdoor activities like fishing, skiing and just enjoying a leisurely day at the park or beach are ideal. After all, life is for the living. It's also important to schedule vacation time to spend with family or friends. Having a circle of people around is a support group in itself.

Setting time boundaries for business and personal life is essential to maintain a balanced life. Funeral directors need to allot of certain amount of time for funeral planning and a certain amount of time for pleasure. Eating a balanced diet with the proper rest will also help one face the challenges of being in the biz.

For the most part, funeral directors today operate with one of two business models. The family service model is likely the most emotional draining of all. Little boundaries are set, and funeral directors are deeply integrated with the family. While it benefits customers with a personal and intimate approach, it often overburdens the funeral director emotionally. With a corporate owned funeral homes model, the relationship between the funeral director and clients is more detached. It's more of a corporate perspective with a salesman style. With corporate firms, and the process is more like an assembly line with employees focusing on certain areas. While it doesn't afford as much opportunity to develop personal relationships with clients, it does afford structured hours and good boundaries. Focus is on managing the bottom line.

Being a funeral director is a real challenge. Funeral directors must act as their own caregivers and fight to maintain the balance of having a life and taking care of business. Their own lives and families are worth it, and the clients they serve are worth it. If attaining a good balance is difficult, it's smart to seek help or consider changing careers.

www.cremationsolutions.com

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Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust Fund

TFDA is pleased to announce the Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust Fund is now operational. TFDA members now have a funding option when preneed opportunities arise, Investors Life for insurance funding, and TFDA Preneed Trust to fulfill trusting needs.

The Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust Fund is a secure pooled trust comprised from TFDA member funeral establishments. Any TFDA member firm may participate in the Trust. Participation in the trust allows TFDA members the ability to deposit funds for an intended funeral beneficiary's preneed arrangement ensuring compliance with all preneed laws and regulations. Those funds earn competitive rates of interest and can be accessed quickly when a funeral becomes at-need.

The Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust a service available to all TFDA members in good standing, and:

- Meets all state and federal requirements
- 2% Minimum Crediting Rate or market value whichever is greater
- No Minimum Deposit Requirements, Age Restrictions or Chargebacks
- Online Quarterly Reports and Account Balances through Administrative Systems Inc. provides monthly preneed reports,
- Affords access to online account balance information, summary statements and monthly activity reports

Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust funds are pooled with many other accounts in secure investments earning

the highest possible rate of return. The return earned over time will assist offsetting rising costs should the price of the future funeral increase. One hundred percent of the principal and interest accrues to the benefit of the intended funeral recipient.

All Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust accounts are fully portable, meaning you may transfer your account to another funeral home at any time. Some traditional saving accounts may close or become inaccessible at your time of death. Tennessee Preneed Funeral Trust accounts will be available immediately to apply toward or pay for final funeral expenses.

We would also like to remind everyone of our recommendation of Investors Heritage Life Insurance Company for all your preneed insurance needs. TFDA, through Tennessee Funeral Security, Inc. began this affiliation in 2017 and it has been an absolute delight working with these fine folks. We hope this relationship will remain for many years.

Investors Heritage has been assisting funeral professionals with insurance funded preneed since the 1980's. And, Investors Heritage has not stopped increasing products and compounding services since. their products, and compounded services been compounding and increasing their product offering since then.

Here are some of the many benefits provided by Investors Heritage Director of Tennessee's preneed division Jay Slatton.

- Service Based Support
- Field Management Team
- Home Office Team
- Marketing Team
- Multiple products on same application
- Multiple tax-free growth levels with corresponding commission schedules
- Industry Leading Premium Rates
- Dedicated home office and field team to funeral homes
- Open communication with Upper Management Team
- Claims paid within 24-48 hours
- Attainable company convention for top producers
- Multiple faceted Marketing Program
- Facebook, Online Ads, Direct Mail, etc
- Points earned for every dollar submitted
- Successful Seminar Program
- Unfunded Preneed Conversion Program



Living Memorial[®] P R O G R A M

“I will smile when I think of a small sapling growing tall over the years.”

The significance of a unique life is symbolized with the planting of a tree.

While nothing can take the place of a loved one, there is comfort in knowing that as one life ends, a new one is just beginning. Since 1976, the Living Memorial has helped re-establish thousands of acres in national forests and woodlands destroyed by fire, blight and other natural disasters.

Thanks to our partnership with funeral professionals, more than 14 million seedlings have been donated as living legacies to loved ones who have passed. We are proud to continue to offer this free program to families who purchase Batesville caskets, full size urns and containers.*

*Not all products qualify.



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TIME TO THINK ABOUT SUCCESS

hospice  advisors

ADVISORY SERVICES

Keep your funeral home plugged into the conversations between hospice and families by speaking the language of hospice and developing a strategy that is tailored to your funeral home's needs. As a Hospice Advisors client your funeral home will work closely with our experienced and dedicated team of hospice and funeral service professionals to implement novel solutions designed to cultivate mutually beneficial partnerships with local hospice providers.

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CONTACT

Kurt Kazanowski at 734.658.6162 or visit hospiceadvisors.com/contact/ to learn more and request the 2020 Hospice Advisors Resource Guide for Funeral Homes

2020 TFDA-TFSSC CONVENTION

ADVOCATE COMPANIES

The TFDA would like to acknowledge the following companies as 2020 TFDA-TFSSC Convention Advocates. These companies have unselfishly donated exhibition and/or sponsorship fees in support of the cancellation due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The TFDA-TFSSC Convention is indeed fortunate being associated with such generosity.



TFDA Member Convention Contributors

~ Contributions Total \$5,000 ~

Anglin Funeral Home	Shackelford Funeral Directors, Bolivar
Bordwine Funeral Home	Shackelford Funeral Directors, Waynesboro
Christian-Sells Funeral Home	Shackelford Funeral Home of Henderson
Farrar Funeral Home, Dandridge, Jefferson City, White Pine	Smith Funeral and Cremation
Jeffers Funeral & Cremation Services	Smith Mortuary Company, Inc.
Karnes & Son Funeral Home, Dyer, Kenton & Rutherford	Sumner Funeral & Cremation
Ridgeway Funeral Home	Walters Funeral Home
Shackelford funeral Directors of Selmer	Young Funeral Home

The Tennessee Funeral Directors Association
would like to say a special thank you to
The Independent Funeral Group, Brad Kuchnicki, Executive Director
along with all their members for your donation of \$10,000.

THE Independent
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