

THE THANA GRAM

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President's Message

Marc Sims • TFDA Board of Directors



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Greetings,

It is that time of year when the summer events are slipping away and we begin to ramp up into fall, along with the holidays, that we realize just how fast it is moving. As I sit here and look at the different things, such as work, family, and life in general, I am so honored to serve the TFDA as your President and would like to say thank you for this honor. I have always strived to be a professional in our field and serving as President is most humbling.

I would like to say thanks to the Board and Sales Club representatives who were able to attend the President's Retreat. We had a such a wonderful time of fellowship, as well as starting off our year with a great board meeting. It was so encouraging to see how everyone was so attentive to get started on the tasks at hand, new business, and other key factors to make TFDA the best association.

With that being said, the TFDA leadership is working on the membership's behalf to set new goals by working with new endorsements, legislation, and By-laws, as well as planning for the upcoming 119th convention. We have always endeavored to keep the TFDA and its membership as the most important role possible.

As I traveled across the state for our district meetings, it has been a great privilege to meet and see other funeral directors. It has been a pleasure to sit and listen to the different things that are affecting the funeral service industry. It makes you feel a great sense of pride to know each one is striving to the best professional they can be and help the families in their time of need.

We hope everyone had a great time at the National Funeral Directors Convention that was held right here in the heart of Nashville. We hope you made many new friends and learned new techniques or ideas that can be applied to help you be continuously successful.

In closing, remember the TFDA Board is working hard for our members. Please feel free to contact me if there is anything we can do for you.

Respectfully,
Marc Sims

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ASSOCIATION

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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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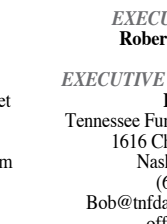
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Legislative Curve Balls in the State of Tennessee

by Bob Batson, TFDA Executive Director

and J.A. Bucy, Lobbyist for TFDA

The public policy and political landscape in Tennessee for the past several years has produced intriguing trends for the funeral profession. The Tennessee Funeral Directors Association (TFDA) has been affected by these trends and compelled to adapt. Many of these trends have been discussed on both the state and national level and are legislative proposals bearing good intentions. TFDA has worked diligently making sure the members and businesses represented are properly positioned to handle these changing trend ideas. While these economic and cultural developments are not unique to The Volunteer State, it is important adjust so TFDA members may continue serving Tennessee families in grief at the highest possible level.

Regulatory and License Changes

In 2017, legislation was filed in the Tennessee General Assembly, if passed, would allow individuals to become a licensed funeral director and/or embalmer through alternate processes historically not allowed in Tennessee and most other states. This legislation would have created a law allowing licensure to be obtained by serving an apprenticeship, passing a state administered test, and paying the applicable fees. There would be no formal education requirements. There was also legislation filed that would have also allowed reciprocity of a funeral director license from other states regardless of if the other state would reciprocate with Tennessee licensees. One might discern that the actual intent was to remove the need of licensure in its entirety, which could be the outcome and not the goal. The origin of these bills is generally from national organizations which have reasonable goals to alleviate unnecessary or burdensome regulation on industry. An incredibly important and worthy goal for any small businessperson in the funeral or other regulated industry. With a couple of quick examples, some regulations have become an important part of the funeral profession and offer value to associations like TFDA.

Allowing individuals to enter various regulated occupations only serving an apprenticeship is an example where TFDA has a strong opinion, apprenticeship is an important part of the funeral profession culture. Tennessee already requires a one-year apprenticeship in addition to coursework to obtain both funeral director and embalmer licenses.

The coursework includes law and ethics, accounting, psychology, embalming and management at John. A. Gupton College in Nashville and is just as important as the apprenticeship in the opinion of TFDA leadership. These two paths—coursework and hands-on apprenticeships—foster individuals who understand the funeral profession and are better prepared to serve our communities and protect public safety. Legislation which seeks to undermine the importance of learning the fundamentals of science, business, legal liability, and public health safety in the classroom will not be supported.

These regulatory bills were even more prolific in 2019 and 2020. Nearly 20 bills were filed (see chart A) including legislation allowing an individual to legally use an unlicensed person for professional services. By having the consumer sign an agreement holding the service provider harmless for damages, services such as cosmetology, accounting, real estate, funeral directing, and contracting could be legally obtained. This legislation was not difficult to defeat as it completely eroded the licensing processes in Tennessee. TFDA is, and will be, vigilant regarding challenges to funeral directing and embalming licensure. The Tennessee State Funeral Board provides oversight and protection of the physical and financial well-being of the consuming public; deregulation to this extent would create problems. For example, state board representatives conduct annual assessments for each Tennessee licensed funeral establishment. While some may feel this process burdensome, the undoing of all licensing and oversight is clearly not the answer.

Randy Nash, Jr., of Sumner Funeral and Cremation and 2020 TFDA President put it aptly when he said, “No one likes burdensome regulation but the undoing of the need for coursework for a funeral directing license or not requiring a license at all is unacceptable. We will continue to stand up for funeral directors and our members.” As previously mentioned, these bills not only involved the funeral profession as well as several others. TFDA led the communication with members of the other professional organizations mobilizing efforts to educate members of the Tennessee General Assembly regarding the challenges of these bills. TFDA’s coordination effort led to the defeat of these bills maintaining safety practices protecting

Tennessee citizens. “Being 100% successful is important, but 100% of the time is difficult. TFDA’s mission requires leadership to maintain these efforts should issues of this nature return.” Mr. Nash added.

Green(er) Burials

Another trend in Tennessee and around the country is the desire of some consumers to find what are more environmentally friendly final dispositions for their loved ones. This request has produced some interesting solutions and business models throughout the country. Tennessee has seen its share of legislation to allow for these processes. The popularity of cremation continues rise around the country according to data from the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA). The prospect of a greener process is attractive to some. Each year for the past several years legislation has been filed in Tennessee which would allow for alkaline hydrolysis, often considered a cremation alternative, and can be referred to as aquamation. The process is allowed in several states. Minnesota’s Mayo Clinic implemented this process in 2005 and is still in use today. The intent of previous alkaline hydrolysis legislation was designed to mirror cremation statutes. Alkaline hydrolysis is a process completely different from cremation, many components will simply not fit into a standard cremation statute. TFDA Governmental Affairs Committee was commissioned by the TFDA Board of Directors to ensure that changes in the Tennessee law are uniform and proper.

The TFDA Governmental Affairs Committee formed a subcommittee chaired by Steven Spann, President of John A. Gupton College, to decide if writing legislation was the proper course of action. The subcommittee met several times over a five-month period interviewing alkaline hydrolysis operators, equipment manufacturers, and state and national attorneys. The subcommittee concluded that alkaline hydrolysis should be introduced as a separate section in the Tennessee Code regarding funeral statutes. The TFDA Board of Directors agreed.

TFDA Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman David Murphy states: “Creating a subcommittee to roll up their sleeves and better understand a process with many unknowns was important. The subcommittee wanted to make sure that if it was going to be the law in Tennessee, it was good for both funeral homes and consumers. I knew Mr. Spann and his subcommittee would do just that,” Alkaline hydrolysis legislation was proposed in 2020 to the Tennessee General Assembly and collectively did not receive one vote in the negative in either the House or Senate committees or subcommittees. Due to the

Covid-19 pandemic the Tennessee General Assembly abruptly adjourned in March before the bill could get final approval on the House or Senate floors. It is expected the legislation will be reintroduced and approved in 2021.

Handling Trends

The ability of TFDA to respond to these public policy and industry trends has been generated by one source: the members. TFDA Vice-President Marc Sims of Karnes & Sons Funeral Home believes it is the nature of funeral directors to want to be involved in the public policy of their profession.

“Being leaders in our respective communities gives all funeral directors the desire to make a positive impact and staying involved and informed on political decisions which are being made in a state capitol is just part of the job,” said Mr. Sims.

The Tennessee Funeral Directors Association has a governing board and a Governmental Affairs Committee that reports activity to the board. The Committee meets at a minimum once a month year-round to discuss issues that are impacting the profession, legislation being the priority. This type of constant engagement has been a huge source of strength for the association in handling annual legislative activities and most recently, discussion of the emergency regulations that were implemented during the pandemic.

Additionally, the Association created its own Political Action Committee (PAC) so it could generate funds to participate in the political process. Each year the TFDA PAC donates political contributions to legislators with integrity who have shown support for the funeral profession. Brent McNeely, of Walters Funeral Home and TFDA Secretary/Treasurer said this involvement with the political process is a critical “final piece” of involvement for funeral directors and allows the association the ability to manage any trending public policy issues.

“When I served as PAC chair, I realized how important it was for TFDA to stay involved in the political campaigns of those legislators who have been champions for our profession.” Mr. McNeely added.

Licensure, regulatory schemes, cremation alternatives, and green burials are all examples of trends in which the Tennessee Funeral Directors have been working on for the past few years. The mission statement of TFDA states: “TFDA facilitates the success and quality service of funeral professionals through leadership, advocacy, and

education.” Successful advocacy comes through successful leadership. The TFDA Board of Directors understands how important legislation is to the funeral profession and has made advocacy the priority.

The TFDA Board charges the TFDA Governmental Affairs Committee and staff to educate the Tennessee General Assembly regarding why these ideas may or may not be the best solutions. Additionally, the responsibility of the board and committee members is to motivate the hundreds of TFDA members to stay engaged with their individual legislators. Detrimental legislation can be costly, happen quickly, and is appearing more frequently. It is critically important to the prosperity of the Tennessee funeral profession to maintain positive legislator-constituent relationships when undesirable ideas arise. These relationships are the key to political engagement and allowing TFDA to respond and achieve what TFDA President Randy Nash calls, “100% success.”

Bob Batson – Executive Director, Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, 30 years. TN licensed Funeral Director/Embalmer. Mortuary Specialist DMORT Region IV 25 years, multiple deployments. Chairperson of Council

of Funeral Service Executives 2010-2012. Member of TN Medical Examiners Advisory Council

J.A. Bucy is a partner at Capitol and 5th Public Strategies in Nashville with over 27 years of experience helping businesses and associations achieve their objectives by building and effectively leveraging political capital. He has worked in and around politics since 1984 when he was in middle school working on the campaign of a funeral director running for the state house. He has represented the TFDA in the Tennessee General Assembly for over a decade.

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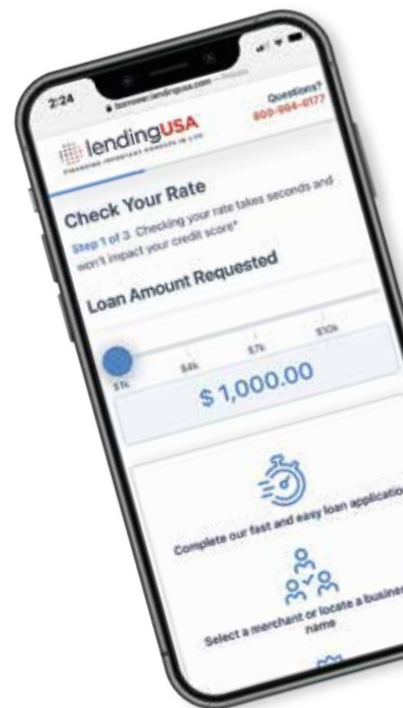


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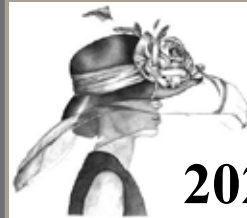
October 2021

The 2021 Statement of Due for TFDA Membership have gone out in the mail. We ask that you please complete the forms so we can update all information.

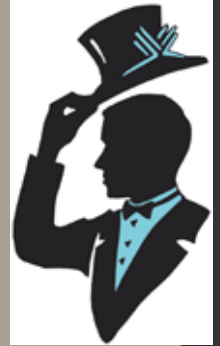
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THE WISDOM OF THE REV. DR. EDGAR N. JACKSON

Written by Todd Van Beck

Introduction:

One of the most fortunate learning experiences I have had in my entire life was the time I was a student of the Rev. Dr. Edgar N. Jackson. He was on the faculty of the New England Institute and I took my education and training to become a funeral director at that old venerable institution.

Since I graduated I have depended on Dr. Jackson's thinking, concepts, materials and approach to dealing with and understanding human loss on countless occasions. I have found that his thinking seems to never get stale or obsolete. On the contrary his wisdom is a powerful today in my career as it was thirty-five years ago when I sat in his classes trying to write down every word that came out of his mouth.

He was without question one of the best friends the funeral profession ever has had.

Today, however, all of Dr. Jackson's books are out of print. I have concluded that that is a shame for the young funeral professionals in this country who might not have had the opportunity to ponder Dr. Jackson's concepts. To that end I have composed this series of article on the Wisdom of Edgar N. Jackson

ARTICLE ONE – Dr. Jackson's Approach

Primary to Dr. Jackson's approach to the psychology of grieving was his ever present attention to healthy mourning practices.

Dr. Jackson promoted the idea that even though death is universal, it is an event for which no one can be fully prepared to deal with when it occurs. And the experience of death varies, depending first upon the type of death involved – violent, unexpected, expected, etc., and secondly upon the person who is experiencing the loss. Jackson feels that the death experience expurgates the bereaved person's true psychological makeup, this evidenced by the variety of responses to death, i.e. Normal grief, masked grief, delayed grief, exaggerated grief, abbreviated grief, complicated grief, no grief.

Yet there are certain common reactions to death also. Dr. Jackson related that sudden and violent deaths often cause those affected to focus upon the physical signs and symptoms of the distressing happening. Fainting, loss of strength and nausea are typical reactions to such a loss. These responses are normal Dr. Jackson is quick to point out – typical reactions to the drastic changes in the life situations of those most deeply affected by the death.

In addition to the common physical reactions are several typical emotional reactions to the death of a significant other. Included are the loss of orderly thought processes, feelings of fear and anxiety about the future, self-pity, anger, resentment and vengefulness. Keeping in mind that these physical and emotional reactions must be honestly faced and experienced is integral in the healthy mourning process. A key belief of Dr. Jackson's was that the reality of death must not be denied or taken away, since emotional energy spent on denial could be used productively on acceptance stances.

It must be stated that the death that is anticipated often results in similar feelings as the unanticipated death. The anticipation falls away upon the death, giving way to the understanding that it is a time of substantial readjustment, with strong emotions bound to arise.

But whether the death was expected or unexpected Dr. Jackson says our reactions are grounded heavily in our attachment to the deceased. Dr. Jackson called the death of a loved one "emotional amputation," comparing it to the amputation of a limb of the body (phantom limb syndrome). Dr. Jackson refers to these bereaved individuals as "vulnerable victims."

Mourning as a healthy process Dr. Jackson says is an experience of personal value, the knowledge gained in reinvesting in one's life.

Two factors emerge in Dr. Jackson's thinking as the great effectors of one's responses to death. First is the degree of relationship to the deceased, second is the type of loss. To a lesser degree are the factors of prior experience, emotional stability, strength and general personality makeup.

The topic of anticipated vs. unanticipated loss surfaces again. Dr. Jackson writes: "If you have time to prepare for the loss – to brace yourself against it, you can cope more readily than if you are surprised and caught off balance by the event." Sudden loss gives no time to muster defenses, and the full brunt of the loss is felt.

The work of Marianne Simmel is helpful to understand this concept of Dr. Jackson's. Simmel's study is of the relationship between the loss of a body part and the loss of a loved one to death. "Where she found phantom limb experiences in a significant numbers was among persons who had lived long enough to integrate the body part into their total life function, and where the loss of it was sudden and unexpected."

This analogy reveals that true to Dr. Jackson's beliefs, the extent of attachment and the type of loss greatly affects one's response to the death of a significant other. Going one step further, Simmel found that those who readily accepted the loss of a limb were better able to adjust than those who denied the reality of the situation.

ARTICLE TWO: DR. JACKSON'S "JUST" AND "UNJUST" DEATH CONCEPT

Some death is logical, as in old age, while other death is illogical, as in one whose life is taken by circumstances which are untimely, unexpected, and unnatural.

Dr. Jackson maintains that some death is real. It is seen firsthand and experienced closely in each of its phases, while other death is unreal. An example of real death may be the death of a parent in a nursing center, where the family experiences the slow withering of life. An example of unreal death may be that of a soldier who dies in a far off land, this death is far removed from the context of the family's everyday experience. Not only is it difficult to relate to, but it is difficult to accept as really having happened. Dr. Jackson wrote: "Loss that is unreal may be infected by doubt and uncertainty. This infected wound tends to heal more slowly and may never heal completely."

According to Dr. Jackson regardless of whether the death is expected or unexpected, real or unreal, logical or illogical, or just or unjust, one truth is clear – physical and emotional response is inevitable. The extent to which these reactions manifest themselves is affected by the type of death, though. Whether one is productive in accepting the death or unproductive by denying the reality of the death this choice alone will determine the course of the mourning. As Dr. Jackson put it, "Your capacity to have deep feelings for another person is also the source of your capacity for acute pain at the time of loss."

Dr. Jackson proposes the three items are of primary importance in a person's response to death:

Face the reality of the situation. Dr. Jackson was firm in his thinking that "specialists in the management of grief say that it is essential to break through the denials and to face the painful reality before we can begin the healthful work of mourning."

Accept the emotional and physical feelings aroused. There is nothing brave about denying your feelings. According to Dr. Jackson, "To take heavy sedation to blot out feelings is usually unsound, for it tends to postpone rather than remove our feelings." Dr. Jackson believed that the initial confrontation with the dead body is the time to really begin the healthy mourning process.

Realize that others have experienced similar loss and can help you get through yours. Ventilation of feelings, Dr. Jackson believed, is best facilitated when there is a community of persons with whom you can talk.

ARTICLE THREE: CULTURE AND DEATH

"How skillful we are in coping with death is determined at least in part by the attitudes toward death in our culture." According to Dr. Jackson this fact is not good news for the mourner. Dr. Jackson continues, "Being a part of our culture, and being so close to it, we are adapted to the values of the culture." Part of such adaptation Dr. Jackson felt has been in our treatment of death in our society, and such adaptation involves death denial attitudes. Contributing to this stance is the removal of death and the dead from our everyday experience. In an age of advanced medical technology, death is seen as almost an anomaly – something rare. Death has been taken from the home and placed in hospital and nursing homes. Even Hospice today resembles more of an institution than a home. "We have moved from the emotionally involved to the technically skilled," Dr. Jackson said.

This cultural mood, Dr. Jackson felt, is working directly against a healthy concept of death in our society. The disintegration of the stable family and community unites is also undermining the well-being of the individual relative to the situation of death. Once a source of support and understanding the family, Dr. Jackson felt, has changed in a way that is of no benefit to the bereaved. Disruption of the family unit upon the death of a member makes such a death very threatening. Grief expressions tend to be suppressed in such an environment. Dr. Jackson strongly felt that new methods of expression and support must replace the analogs lost through societal change.

Dr. Jackson said, "How other say you should feel and act is secondary to how you really feel and want to act." Dr. Jackson stressed that one's feelings cannot be intellectualized away. They are unique and must be realistically faced, in a person's way, for healthy mourning to progress. Societal restrictions have no part in such circumstances.

By "acting out," Dr. Jackson is referring to rites, rituals and ceremonies, and their inherent ability to facilitate normal grief and mourning. These traditional activities, Dr. Jackson believed, are the culmination of history's solution to solace in a stressful time. These acting out activities enable participants to act out feelings and emotions that are too deep and complicated to put into words and hence express. Funerals, Dr. Jackson believed provide the perfect medium for such acting out. The structure of the funeral, a stabilizing factor in bringing order to chaos is indispensable.

"Acting in," a term coined by Dr. Lawrence Abt, is the holding inside of one's feelings. This is the opposite, true to its

verbiage, of acting out. These feelings, as Dr. Jackson was always quick to instruct, do not cease to exist because their expression is denied. Rather they remain inside, unresolved, and will manifest themselves in abnormal and complicated grief reactions at some later time. Thus it is wise to deal with the grief situation as it arises, for it is at this time that the necessary resources are readily available for use by the bereaved. The funeral is an excellent resource, according to Dr. Jackson.

“All the time, when life is shaken by the overpowering of man’s physical immortality, belief in his spiritual immortality can be especially helpful in sustaining life.” Dr. Jackson believed strongly that there are realities beyond our senses, and that we should accept this spirituality as a source of strength in a troubled time. Stabilization can be realized upon acceptance of the notion that there is more to each person than simply biology.

ARTICLE FOUR – THREATS AND RESOURCES

Death causes many crises. Of significant importance is the obvious loss of the individual person who was a major part of the life of the bereaved. New role relationships arise – the physicians, funeral director, clergy and sometimes police, as well as newly defined roles within the family in adjusting to the loss. Dr. Jackson believed that these stresses can be alleviated to a great extent by community support in the death environment. The family, he felt, no matter how dysfunctional is central to this supportive frame work. In addition there are close friends and casual acquaintances. It would be unwise through isolation behaviors, to shut oneself off from such support.

Using the internal (family) and external (funeral) resources aids the bereaved in resolving the loss. “If you focus on the tragic event, it will become even more tragic in its effect on your life.” Dr. Jackson wrote. “If you focus on your ability to cope with it, it can be a growing experience that will strengthen your life.”

He hinges of history, as Winston Churchill pointed out, swings on the events that are brief in time but great in effect. The wise management of such events according to Dr. Jackson leads to both person growth within and a growth in one’s ability to help others who are experiencing similar difficulties. Dr. Jackson observed, “Instead of asking, ‘Why must I endure so much?’ you might ask, ‘How can I find life’s true meaning in these painful events?’”

Dr. Jackson continues his observation by pointing out that it is natural to respond to the death of a loved one by blaming others. One may blame himself with such feelings leading to guilt. Intellectualizing of true feelings is a process of numbing the reality of the loss. According to Dr. Jackson, “Pastors spiritualize, physicians sedate, and funeral directors general-

ize.” All of these behaviors are examples of self-deception in the death environment and all will ultimately prove to be unhealthy. Deception arises with the feeling of hopelessness in a situation, when the distress of the moment is exaggerated. “There is no therapy in creating a world of falsehoods or delusion” said Dr. Jackson. One must realistically assess emotions and feelings and determine what resources are necessary and available to deal with the grief. This, Dr. Jackson believed firmly, was not facilitated by self-deceitful behavior.

Closely associated with self-deception is the emotion of anger. Grief often unleashes violent angry emotions. Again such a response to loss is natural – normal, considering the stress involved in the situation. Repressed anger, like other denied emotions, will not cease to exist because they are held in check. Their expression is only delayed.

Such anger is usually directed at the deceased, society, church, or the self. Dr. Jackson outlined four resources to effectively manage anger:

- Admission of the anger
- Analyze the anger
- Acting out the anger with expression
- Abandon the anger

The key is that destructive tendencies can be controlled and turned to a constructive purpose. This wise management not only makes valuable the grief experience for the bereaved, but it enables the bereaved to reinvest their new knowledge in the community with a helpful stance towards helping other people.



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ARTICLE FIVE – FUNERALS

Dr. Jackson believed and maintained that a specific order must be maintained at the time of death. He mapped this order in the following manner:

- The event of the death
- Notification of family and community
- Gathering of wits and confrontation with the reality of death
- Community support mobilization
- Religious/faith support
- Disposition of the body

DR. JACKSON'S THOUGHT ON THE VALUE OF THE FUNERAL

“When we come to the end of life, proper recognition of the life of the person who has died seems appropriate. But common sense tells us that it does the dead person no good. But every group in every culture has found it necessary to perform certain rituals at the time of the death of one of its members. Why? For one simple reason: They do it for themselves. They need to verify the dignity and importance of their living and to help guarantee the practices that will protect them from indignity in death when they are helpless and dependant.”

Dr. Jackson believed that the dignity of man in life is comparable to the dignity of man in death. The funeral he felt consists of a series of activities which assist the bereaved in breaking the ties with the deceased in order to modify the relationship. This task of letting go of the past and its object of affection is of major importance. Dr. Jackson felt that viewing the body in death is of major importance on the road to healthy mourning.

“While it is good to remember fine things about a person, it is dangerous to try to keep him alive after he has died,” Dr. Jackson warns. The changes brought about by the death can be more readily accepted if there is a true understanding that the object of grief is in fact dead. This is to face reality and it is readily accomplished through funeral activities.

ARTICLE SIX – DR. JACKSON AND GRIEF

Dr. Jackson's pattern of grief consists of seven phases, they are:

- Shock – at the news of the loss
- Catharsis – upon realizing the reality of the situation
- Depression – a normal reaction to loss
- Guilt - either evident or masked blame directed inwards
- Pre-occupation – with the deceased
- Anger – blame directed outwards
- Absolute reality – the acceptance of the death

Dr. Jackson was clear that there is no order to the above mentioned responses. Grief, he felt, like any emotion, is unique to the individual experiencing it.

Dr. Jackson believed that if one has met life's problems with strength and assurance, it is likely that they will meet death in a similar manner, but if their life experience has been one of distress at the onset of problems, a similar response will there be to death.

Finally Dr. Jackson addresses three basic issues in dealing with grief, they are:

- Deprivation
- Fear
- Insecurity

We are deprived of our loved one, and that leads to fear, and this is a fear among other things of the unrevealed future without that special person, and lastly is insecurity, where order and become disorder and there is no power to stop it.

Dr. Jackson believed that there was little that anyone could do to remove deprivation of our loved one, but to banish fear and insecurity Dr. Jackson believed that could be accomplished by reasoning over and over that there was a purpose to the death, even if that purpose is not readily evident. Dr. Jackson also admonished that before these feeling arise there must be that realization and reality of what has truly happened. Grief, according to Dr. Jackson is eased when one's emotion can be freely expressed.

Finally Dr. Jackson condemns six “do not” behaviors in dealing with grief, they are:

- Do not drug yourself – you are only postponing the inevitable.
- Do not feel sorry for yourself – self pity is ultimately futile.
- Do not run away – the best place to face the readjustment is where the readjustment must finally be made.
- Do not withdraw yourself – you are cutting yourself off from helpful resources
- Do not cross bridges until you come to them – do not allow yourself to be overwhelmed about the uncertainty of the future.
- Above all, do not underestimate yourself – each new experience can call forth new abilities and resources from within.





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The Book Project: Victory Over Death



In July of 2020, Arrington Funeral Directors, Jackson, Tennessee published a book entitled *Victory Over Death: Funeral Messages of Hope & Healing*. Bob Arrington, president/founder of Arrington Funeral Directors and NFDA past president, had a dream of providing a practical ministry too] to those new to the ministry. Knowing that ministers receive very

little training in conducting a funeral in their Bible college or seminary education, a retired pastor of 25+ years, Rev.

Ron Hale was added to the staff as Minister of Church Outreach to help launch the book project.

Experienced local pastors from various denominations were invited to submit funeral messages for the book. Funeral home staff wrote chapters on: Death and Grief, The Pastor's Response When a Church Member Dies, and Advice from a Funeral Director to those Leading the Funeral Service. These chapters give step by-step instructions to the pastor/lay leader in working with the Funeral Director and the family in planning and conducting the funeral service.

Over fifteen funeral messages were published by seasoned pastors/lay leaders. The family of Dr. Adrian Rogers (1931-2005), the longtime pastor of the 15,000 member Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, TN released two of his messages on death and dying for the book project. Dr. Logan Hampton, the president of Lane College, a historic minority college in Jackson, Tennessee submitted a funeral message. The book concludes with helpful chapters on: The Purposeful Committal Service and A Church Remembrance Service.

The book received notice in local newsprint, radio, and television outlets as well as nationally in *The Director Magazine* and *The American Funeral Director*. The area Christian bookstore hosted an event on a Saturday highlighting the release and offered a free copy to students studying for the ministry, lay leaders and pastors.

The book has also been a great way for our Minister of Church Outreach to visit with pastors with this gift and discover needs and hurts during the COVID-19 pandemic. With over 11,500 COVID-19 cases in the city of Jackson and Madison County, Tennessee and 243 related deaths, the ministry and stress of making the right decision at the right time has taken a toll on many ministers. Some have called this "decision fatigue." Therefore, the book became available at an extremely crucial moment. One pastor shared, "After you gave me the book, I was able to pull ideas from it the very next week."

Another pastor shared, "I've been a pastor of the same church for over 14 years.

I have preached over 110 funerals. This book is a HUGE resource of help and ideas for specific needs. It is helpful in not repeating the same funeral message to many of the same attendees."

When evaluating the project and the dream of such a book, we can all see how *Victory Over Death* is a valuable resource for those on the frontline line of caring for the sick, dying, and grieving.

This book is dedicated to the life and legacy of Frances Arrington Harper (1926-2019), the mother of Bob and his biggest supporter. Books can be ordered through Amazon.

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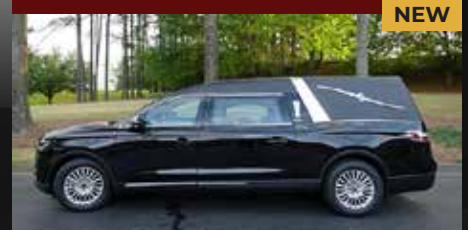
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Obituaries

MR. ROBERT “FRANK” LOCKARD

Mr. Lockard a funeral director was born in Trenton, TN on August 7, 1937 to the late Fred and Grace Peevyhouse Lockard, and passed away Tuesday September 7, 2021 at Trenton Healthcare, Trenton, TN.

Frank was a business owner of the Hayes & Lockard DX Services Station in Trenton, Tennessee. He worked many years at the Milan Army Ammunition Plant and a funeral director at Hunt Funeral Home LLC for 47 years.

Politics played a role in Frank's life. He became Mayor of Bradford and served two terms, He served sixteen years as alderman for the City of Bradford. Frank was an outstanding public servant. Frank had friends of all walks of life and he loved people.

He is survived by his wife Glenda Lockard, two children Robert (Debbie) Lockard of Jackson, TN, Doug Lockard of Trenton, TN, Three grandchildren Michael Lockard of Trenton, TN, Mandy McCrady of Trenton, TN, Ashley Hunt of Clarksville. Eleven great grandchildren Lyra, Isla, Wayne, Riley, Kohner, Ashlyn, AJ, Karma, Taylor, Ryan Jr, sister-in-law Dorothy Cash of Bradford, Tn.

Preceded in death by his great grandson Makylon.

Hunt Funeral Home LLC is honored to serve the family of Robert F. Lockard.

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DOROTHY GRAY SOWELL

Dorothy Gray Sowell, 98, a native of the Santa Fe Community in Maury County, Tennessee, died Wednesday, September 8, 2021 at her daughter's residence in Culleoka.

The family suggests memorials to Rose Hill Cemetery, P.O. Box 1015, Columbia, TN 38402. Condolences may be extended online at www.oakesandnichols.com.

Born October 30, 1922, she was the daughter of the late Sam E. and Gertrude Gray Gray. On May 11, 1943, she married Frank F. Sowell in Columbia, Tennessee. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 1993. He preceded her in death November 21, 1997.

She was the mother of four children: Jane Gray “Bunny” Sowell who died October 5, 2015; Tony (Edith Sue Delk) Sowell; Mrs. Louis Harvey (Beth) Fischer; Miss Sammie A. Sowell (Joe

Czajka), and enjoyed her grandchildren, Matthew Freeman (Laura McKay) Sowell, Andrew Delk (Shellie Singleton) Sowell, Meribeth Gray Sowell (Will) Bradley, William Chaffin (Hilary Fry) Fischer, John Louis (Alison McCabe) Fischer, and Samuel Alexander Sowell; great-granddaughters, Ann Sowell, Caroline Sowell, Lexi Sowell, Meg Sowell, Amelia Sowell, Gwynn Sowell, Evelina Gray Fischer; great-grandsons, Will Sowell, Russ Sowell, and Emmett Bradley.

During World War II, Dorothy worked at Helm's Jewelry and Southern Bell Telephone Company. While working at the telephone office on South Garden Street next to Oakes & Nichols, she met her future husband. After Frank's induction into the Army Air Corps, she joined Frank at various Air Bases in Florida, New Jersey, South Dakota, and Goldsboro, North Carolina, where he was shipped overseas. She returned to Columbia and continued to work for the duration of the war and was active in the USO.

She was a member of First United Methodist Church and has been an avid gardener and rosarian for many years.

She and Frank traveled extensively overseas and for a number of years enjoyed domestic travel in their motor home. Since his death she has continued to travel in the United States and abroad.

She was a former member of Board of Directors and Vice President Emeritus of Oakes & Nichols, Inc., (1969 - 1988). She was a member of the Board of Trustees, Maury Regional Hospital from 1985 to 2004; served as a member, Building and Grounds Committee, Human Resources Committee, Joint Conference Committee; former chairman Joint Conference Committee; former member Advisory Board. Since her retirement as Trustee, she continued to serve the Board in several capacities. She was a Charter Member of the Maury County Hospital Auxiliary, having served 67 years. She held the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Chairman of Scholarship, Coffee Shop and various other committees and other volunteer assignments for over 57 years and currently served as an Ambassador for Maury Regional Medical Center. She was State President, Tennessee Hospital Association Council on Auxiliaries (1984 - 1986); member of Council (1978 - 1986). Dot served as Co-chairman (with Frank) of Maury County Homecoming '86 (1983 - 1986). Major projects: Maury County Community Band established: HITHER & YON published; co-chaired fundraising for Aquatic Center at Columbia State Community College (over \$300,000.00 raised locally). She was Co-chairman, Maury County “TENNESSEE 200” Committee; Member Maury County Chamber of Commerce-former member, Board of Directors; served as Secretary, Treasurer; chaired committee which established Maury County Clean Community System; also served on Tourism Committee; graduate of Leadership Maury (Class of 1990

- 1991); Maury County Election Official for 30 years; President of Rose Hill Endowment Association (1965 - 2005); Member of the James K. Polk Memorial Association Board of Directors, chaired several committees; elected President 1997. She was a member of Maury County Chapter, APTA; Maury County Historical Society; Columbia Chapter, American Field Service; Jane Knox Chapter, DAR; Captain James Madison Sparkman Chapter, UDC; Maury County Rose Society; Cosmopolitan Literary Club; served as a volunteer and avid supporter of the Maury County Archives. Honors: Maury County Bar Association; Liberty Bell Award - 1987 (jointly with Frank); Columbia Civitan Club Maury County Outstanding Citizen - 1988; Maury County March of Dimes Citizen of the Year - 1992 (jointly with Frank); Lucille Queener Courtney Community Service Award - 1996; and most recently in November 2014, was honored by the Tennessee Hospital Association with the 2014 Meritorius Service Award.

SHEILA ROSE SCARBOROUGH

May 11, 1948 - September 20, 2021



Sheila Rose Scarborough, age 73, passed away after a brief battle with Covid which took her from this life unexpectedly early in an unexpected fashion. She was born in Charlotte, NC on the 11th of May in 1948 to parents Samuel Dyer, Jr. and Audrey Eloise Floyd Dyer; and passed on the 20th of September 2021.

She grew up in Mt. Holly, NC and after high school transferred to Nashville, TN to attend Free Will

Baptist Bible College (now Welch College in Gallatin, TN.) She graduated from there with a bachelor's degree in Missions and Elementary Education. While she never went across the seas to work in the mission field per se, her mission fields happened to have been right here in middle TN within the inner-city schools she worked in for over 25 years as a teacher's aide. There have to be countless children and their families who were directly impacted by her unconditional love for them by her desire in helping them learn, and by sharing God's love in word and deed no matter which school she worked within. She was also a loyal friend and mentor to many of the teachers she had the opportunity to work alongside throughout the years! After retirement, she enjoyed spending extra time with her grandkids!

She was a longtime member of Cofer's Chapel Free Will Baptist Church and was in attendance as much as she was able to be; however, along with the pandemic, the virtual attendance of church services became a real-time way for her to attend and become involved with other worship services as well.

Mom was a fighter, she had a rough life... and she did her best, fought for her beliefs (right, wrong, or indifferent) and lived for her kids and her Lord! Now she is in the presence of God Almighty Himself, and all those who she has loved and lost already,

her parents, her grandparents, my two sweet angel babies – her granddaughters, my sister, Shawna (a beautiful reunion of a perfected mind and bodies for both of them – wish I could have been there to have seen that... one day!) I envy her joy that she is now experiencing away from this hard world of hard knocks that always seemed to be a thief of joy for her.

However, this world is just a temporary passing of time juttled up to the length of eternity yet to come, an eternity she just entered!

May our joy be full in that knowledge now throughout our grief at her passing. May our lives always be an example to others of Who we live for, even when our lives experience hardships and pain, as hers did. Tomorrow here is never promised, but tomorrow there is! Choose joy. Choose Hope for tomorrow. Choose life everlasting. That's what my mom would have wanted for each of you!

Sheila is survived by her daughters, Tiffany Crystal (Tommy) Widener and Jaime Samantha (John) Gailey; grandchildren, Shayla Gailey, Lela Gailey, Faith Gailey, Jordan Widener, and Brody Widener.

Arrangements made by Lumen Cremation, LLC.
www.lumencremation.com



JEANNE SUE BROWN, age 69 of Smyrna died Wednesday September 29, 2021, at her home surrounded by her family. She was born at Boyce Clinic Hospital in Hohenwald and was a native of Wayne Co. She was preceded in death by her parents, Carl and Dortha Castleman Culp.

Mrs. Brown was a member of LaVergne First United Methodist Church where she was active with Food Pantry. She was a long-time member, Hohenwald Chapter 393 Order of Eastern Star and Order of the Eastern Star, Sam Davis Chapter No. 290.

Mrs. Brown was 1969 graduate of Wayne County High School and attended MTSU. She had worked in retail sales for Sparko in Hohenwald, Bills Dollar Stores in Hohenwald and Linden, Huntsville International Airport, and worked for SunTrust Bank in Lawrenceburg and Green Hills before her retirement to enjoy her grandchildren.

Mrs. Brown is survived by her husband of 51 years, Johnny Mack Brown; children, Jonna Martin and husband David, Joshua Brown and wife Tammy, Dottie Cooper and husband Charles; grandchildren, Oliva Martin, Sean Martin, Julia Martin, Sara Brown, Danielle O'Donnell, Courtney O'Donnell, and Connor Cooper.

Memorials may be made in memory of Mrs. Brown to LaVergne Community Food Pantry.

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