

THE THANA GRAM

Winter 2022

Official Publication of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association, Inc.

President's Message

Brent McNeeley, TFDA President

IN THIS ISSUE

Christmas Death Traditions

Charlotte Williams
Retires from
Batesville Casket

Obituaries

A Special Salute
to TFDA
Exclusive
Premier Partner
Matthews -
Aurora Funeral
Solution

Paul Miles
Retirement

Military Funeral
Honors Request

Greetings TFDA Professionals!

I hope that everyone had a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving! With the calendar turning to December and the Christmas season approaching, it's easy to get wrapped up in our day-to-day lives and businesses that we don't take the time to appreciate all that we have. I encourage everyone, (including myself) to take a moment to stop and reflect on where this year has brought us and the wonderful opportunities we have had to serve.

January will be here before we know it, and with that comes a wonderful opportunity for the advancement of our industry at the state level in the coming year. With the November elections, the Tennessee General Assembly will now have 3 members with solid ties to our industry. Rebecca Alexander, State Representative from East Tennessee, was re-elected to serve a second term. Michael Hale, State Representative from Middle Tennessee, and Brent Taylor, State Senator from West Tennessee were both elected to serve their first term. Our TFDA Governmental Affairs Committee and Lobbyist, J.A. Bucy look forward to working with these individuals on future legislation concerning the TFDA and funeral service as a whole.

Tennessee is fortunate to now have 2 Members on the NFDA Board of Directors. Chris Christian from Rogersville and Steve Spann from Dickson were both sworn in at the NFDA Convention in Baltimore in October. Several colleagues from Tennessee and I had the opportunity to be in attendance for that special event. These industry veterans are a great example of why Funeral Service in Tennessee is in a great place.

We look forward to seeing everyone June 25-27 in Franklin for our 2023 TFDA Convention, "A Salute to Service". We have some exciting news coming soon about the educational opportunities that will be available, and a very special event that will take place honoring those who have served our Nation.

In closing, we have a great opportunity, each and every day to encourage and show love to the families that we serve. I would like to borrow an excerpt from Eric Layer's book, The Right Way of Death concerning the Funeral Industry..." On it's very best day, it requires service and empathy to people at their very worst." What a powerful statement, and on behalf of the families you have served, Thank You!

I would like to wish each and every member of the TFDA and their families a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Respectfully,
Brent T. McNeeley



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ASSOCIATION

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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Email: brentmcneely@gmail.com



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Phone: (615) 794-2289
Email: mandi@williamsonmemorial.com



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Email: dyersburgfh@gmail.com



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208 North College Street
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NFDA AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE
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(Term 2016 - 18)
Christian Sells Funeral Home
1520 E. Main Street
Rogersville, TN 37857
(423) 272-0555
office@christiansells.com



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Shackelford Funeral Directors
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Phone: (731) 607-0549
Email: joseph.thomas@shackelfordfuneraldirectors.com



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North West
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Phone: (931) 967-2222
Email: jim@moorecortner.com



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Bridges Funeral Home
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Knoxville, TN 37924
Phone: (865) 523-4999
Email: dbridges@bridgesfuneralhome.com

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Robert W. (Bob) Batson

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ASSISTANT
Dawn Elliott
Tennessee Funeral Directors Association
1616 Church Street, Suite A
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 321-8792
Bob@tnfda.org • Dawn@tnfda.org
office@tnfda.org

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Daniel Ownby
Weaver Funeral Home
630 Locust Street
P.O. Box 324
Bristol, TN 37620
Phone (423) 968-2111
Fax (423) 968-5475
Weaverfh@aol.com

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Ridgeway Funeral Home
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Fax (731) 642-4833
Ridgewayfh@gmail.com

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Not all Christmas traditions are made up of wholesome carolling and milk and cookies. Cultures from around the world all have their own unique ways to celebrate Christmas, and we have rounded up some of the more macabre festive celebrations for you to enjoy! From visiting family graves, to dead birds and trapping witches in ornaments—we have Christmas Death Traditions for everyone this holiday season!

Christmas Death Traditions

Norwegian Christmas Witches

In Norway, it is believed that witches and other evil spirits become more restless at this time of year. While many are busy laying out cookies and milk for Santa, Norwegians hide their brooms on Christmas Eve to ward off witches. As legend has it, witches will come to your home to steal your brooms to ride around in the night.



Christmas Day Cemetery Visits

On Christmas day, the Irish visit cemeteries not just to pay respect to the dead, but to wish each other a happy holiday and maintain a sense of community. Honoring ancestors is very important to the Irish, so it is no surprise that Christmas, a family holiday, is about celebrating the living as well as the dead. Visitors replace old flowers with wreaths of holly and ivy, and some even leave notes and mementos at grave sites.



Witch Balls

Witch Balls are hollow round glass ornaments that were originally hung in windows or around one's home to ward off or even trap witches and evil spirits in 17th and 18th Century England. They were also popular with the settlers of New England, who sometimes filled them with holy water for added protection. Witch Balls are colourful and often have a string inside, resembling glass Christmas ornaments. The colorful balls were believed to attract the witch or evil spirit that would become trapped by the string inside. It is believed that today's modern glass Christmas ornaments have a connection to these talismans against evil.



Spider Web Christmas Decorations

Decorating Christmas trees with spiderwebs is apparently not just for goths! This is a common Ukrainian tradition that dates back to a Ukrainian legend where a poor mother had no decorations for her family's Christmas tree. After the children cried themselves to sleep, a friendly spider got to work and spun fancy webs to decorate the tree. On Christmas morning, the family discovered that the webs turned to gold and silver in the sunlight. To this day, Ukrainians decorate their trees with spider webs to bring good luck and good fortune in the upcoming year.



Victorian Dead Bird Christmas Cards

Victorians are known for their bizarre and macabre Christmas Cards, but the one that stands out the most are those with images of dead birds. These cards usually feature either a dead Robin or a dead Wren. The Robin symbolizes the New Year, and the Wren the old. But why are they dead? One theory is linked to the sentimentality of Victorians, and how a dead bird may call to mind the common stories of children freezing to death at Christmas. This idea is covered by John Grossman in his book *Christmas Curiosities: Odd, Dark, and Forgotten Christmas*. There is also a connection to the Irish holiday Wren Day—a tradition we will cover below.



Christmas Eve Graveside Candle Lighting

On Christmas Eve in Finland, you can find families in cemeteries gathering to light candles, lay flowers and wreaths, and say small prayers for the dead. There are also special places within the cemeteries to light candles for family members buried far from home. This tradition is thought to date back to Pagan traditions around the Finnish harvest festival, kekri, but when Christianity came to Finland, this graveside candle lighting tradition moved to Christmas.



Feast for Souls in Portugal

In Portugal, there is a Christmas morning feast where sweets like 'Bolo Rei' (King's Cake) are enjoyed. In this early morning feast, they set extra places for alminhas a penar, meaning "the souls of the dead". Each family member gives an offering of food with the hope it will increase their good fortune. In some areas, crumbs are left on the hearth to ensure future bountiful harvests. After the meal, the dishes and remaining food are left on the table for dead ancestors to enjoy. We can get behind and Christmas Death Traditions with food!



Killing of a Wren

According to regional Irish tradition, December 26th, Saint Stephen's Day, was celebrated by killing a Wren, placing it on top of a decorated pole, and taking it from house to house in a procession, singing and demanding money. This is known as "going on the Wren" or "Jenny Hunting". The origins of this tradition are not clear, with some believing it is a direct reference to Saint Stephen himself, who was betrayed by a Wren, or to a legend involving wrens exposing hidden Irish villagers to the Vikings during a raid in the 700s. The last known tradition that involved a real dead Wren was in the 1930s in County Sligo and the Isle of Man. It is not celebrated widely today, but the Town of Dingle still holds on to the tradition.



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2023

March 2023

TFDA Spring District Meeting Dates: (Details to come)

Tuesday, March 14, 2023, Jackson Country Club, Jackson, TN

Thursday, March 16, 2023, Chop House, Kodak, TN

Tuesday, March 21, 2023, Farm Bureau Expo Center, Lebanon, TN



June 25 – 27, 2023

2023 Tennessee Funeral Directors Association

120th Annual Convention

Embassy Suites Hotel Cool Springs, Franklin, TN

“A Salute to Service”

September 2023

TFDA Fall District Meeting TBA

Military Funeral Honors Request

Effective January 1st, 2023

All Military Funeral Honors Request will need to be emailed to: ng.tn.tnarng.mbx.ngtn-mua-mfh@army.mil

We will no longer have access to a fax machine. Please start utilizing the email listed above to send the request form and all/any discharge paperwork.

Include a copy of the DD 214 and/or discharge papers or any other document to show proof of military service and character of discharge. All requests must be at least 24 hours in advance, with any request excess of 150 miles from Fort Campbell at least 48 hours in advance. These times are strictly adhered to. Our telephone numbers are 615-313-0977 or Toll Free (866) 368-6338. Our office hours are 7:00 AM-3:30 PM, on weekends and holidays office hours are 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM.

Our website is listed below:

<https://www.tn.gov/military/programs-benefits/military-family-programs/funeral-honors.html>
Funeral Honors (tn.gov)

I emailed everyone back in October and since the year is coming to an end fairly quickly, I wanted to reach out to everyone as a reminder for Army Military Funeral Honors request. We will no longer be able to accept faxes starting 20230101. So please if your office and team has not saved our email address please do so. Or you can visit our website for further information.

Also, in order to determine eligibility for military honors we require the following per the Veterans Affairs and DODI 1300.15.

Documentation is key to us being able to determine eligibility, so please reach out to the family to see if they are able to locate a DD214. If they can not locate one please attempt to locate a copy through TN War Records at Contact Info (tn.gov), or National Archives at National Archives.

“To establish a veteran’s eligibility for military funeral honors, a DD Form 214, “Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty” or any discharge document showing honorable service is required. The DD Form 214 may be obtained by using the online order form or completing a Standard Form 180.”

V/R,
NICOLE MOWERY, SFC, TNARNG
OPERATIONS NCOIC, MILITARY FUNERAL HONORS J9
Office 615-313-0977

Change in National Cemetery Scheduling Office Hours

Effective November 7, 2022, the National Cemetery Scheduling Office is changing our weekend hours. The new Scheduling Office operational hours will be as follows:

Saturday: The office will be open from 9:00am – 5:30pm Eastern Time

Sunday: The office will be closed

The scheduling office hours are

Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 7:30pm Eastern time

Saturday from 9:00am – 5:30pm Eastern Time

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to work to improve our burial scheduling services to streamline operations and improve our ability to deliver timely, quality services to our Veterans, their family members, and their personal representatives.

Charlotte Williams Retires from Batesville Casket

It is with mixed emotions that I inform you of the impending retirement of Charlotte Williams from Batesville, effective October 31, 2022. Charlotte's vast career with Batesville has spanned over 40 years with experience in manufacturing, finance, logistics, and sales. She started her career at our Campbellsville, KY Plant then transferred to the Manchester TN Plant & RDC then to her sales territory in middle Tennessee for the past 21 years. She has served our associates and her customers as a loyal and trusted partner and has become a valued friend.

— Deb Wessling, Regional Sales Director



Pictured left to right -
Deb Wessling, Regional Sales Director
Charlotte Williams, Retiree
Kaitlyn McAdams, Sales Account Executive Middle Tennessee

Colleagues, customers, and friends,
I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you for a very rewarding career. It has been my pleasure to know and serve each of you. I was very touched by the cards, flowers, messages, and gifts from so many people. I have been fortunate to work for such a great company for over 40 years. My mother always told me, "The older you get, the faster time goes." I have to admit, she was right.

I will leave you with the famous words of Winnie the Pooh –
"How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard. So instead of goodbye, I will say hello – hello to a new chapter and a new adventure."

— Charlotte Williams

Obituaries



Robert Edward Batson, father of Robert W. "Bob" Batson, Executive Director for the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association.

Robert Edward Batson, age 87, of Clarksville, passed away on Saturday, October 8, 2022, at Spring Meadows.

Bob entered into this life on January 13, 1935, in Montgomery County, TN to the late T.C. and Sarah Harris Batson. Bob was a retired plant supervisor

for Trane and a member of Bible Baptist Church.

In addition to his parents, he is also preceded in death by his wife, Wynona Joyce Batson.

Survivors include his children, Tommy (Toni) Batson, Bobby (Ruby) Batson, and Dr. Jim (Andrea) Batson; grandchildren, J.T. (Stacy) Batson, Adam (Stephanie) Batson, Jessica (Chris) Lowe, Kevin Batson, Ellie Batson, Megan Batson; great-grandchildren, Lucy, Ada, Sawyer, Beckam, Ellisyn; brother, Billy (Mary) Batson; sisters, Betty (Doyle) Rust, Margaret Johnson.

Online condolences may be made at:
www.Navefuneralhomes.com



Adam Franklin Perryman, age 43, of Lewisburg, died Tuesday, October 11th, 2022, at his home.

He was a native of Marshall County, the son of Mr. Ralph and the late Carol Hyde Perryman. He was Co-Owner of London and Corners-

ville Funeral Homes, serving as a licensed funeral director, embalmer, and a preneed sales agent. He was a member of the Lewisburg First United Methodist Church. Adam served on the advisory committee of Jefferson State Funeral Service Education Program in Birmingham.

In addition to his father he is survived by his wife of 18

years, Lee Cathey Perryman, two daughters, Paige Perryman of Starkville, MS and Abigayle Perryman of Lewisburg, sister, Karen (Chris) McDaniel of Lewisburg, two brothers, Michael (Traci) Perryman of Shelbyville, and Eric (Brandy) Perryman of Columbia, mother in law, Gayle (John) Cook of Belfast, brother in law, Matt (Carolyn) Cathey of Greenville, SC, and several nieces and nephews.

London Funeral Home and Crematory is assisting the family with the arrangements.



July 22, 2018 ~
October 12, 2022 (age 4)

Grady Elijah Harvey, grandson of Michael and Tara Hale, Dekalb Funeral Chapel, Smithville, TN

Grady Elijah "Earl" Harvey age 4, of Alexandria went home to be with the Lord on Wednesday afternoon,

October 12, 2022, at Monroe Carell Jr. Vanderbilt Children's Hospital following a tragic accident. Eli was born July 22, 2018, in Chattanooga. Eli was preceded in death by paternal grandfather, Tommy Harvey; maternal great-grandfather, Ray Donald Webb; paternal great-grandparents, Joe Thomas and Alene Harvey and Bro. Grady and Athlene McGinnis. He attended the Helton Creek the Baptist Church with his family. Eli was in Pre-K at DeKalb West School. He enjoyed riding the tractor with his daddy and going to check on the cows. He loved making friends and never met a stranger. Eli may have been little, but in 4 short years he made such an impact with his smile, personality, and love. He was a giant in a little body, his heart was truly bigger than he was. He was a gift to his family and community and our lives are forever changed because of the last 4 years with Eli. He leaves to cherish so many wonderful memories, his parents, Chad and Kayla Harvey of Alexandria; brother, Jack Harvey and sister, Haddeigh Grace Harvey both of Alexandria; soon arriving sister, Parker Kayte Harvey; maternal grandparents, Jenny Mathis (Mike Redmon) of Dowelltown; Michael and Tara Hale of Smithville; Scott and Myra Sircy of Carthage; paternal grandmother, Miranda Harvey of Alexandria; maternal great-grandparents, Gary and Judy Mathis of Liberty, Nelson and Vicky Sandlin of

Liberty and Betty Webb of Smithville; aunts and uncles, Samantha (Brey) Dedmon, Jaley Hale (Trevor Shim), Maddox Hale, Kevin (Angela) Harvey, Randal (Tara) Harvey and Rachel (Beau) Beechboard; cousins, Ridge Dedmon, Kailley Havey, Wyatt Harvey, Chloe Beth Beechboard and a host of other family and friends.

Mr. Jones is the father-in-law of James Sells and father of Carla Sells. James Sells is part owner of Christian Sells Funeral Home in Rogersville, TN



Carl Edward Jones, age 83, of Rogersville, was called to his Heavenly home on Wednesday, October 12, 2022.

Carl was born on June 19, 1939, in Rogersville to Senter and Margaret Davenport Jones. Growing up, he spent most of his time outdoors and developed a lasting love for gardening, farming, and animals of all kinds. He served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and

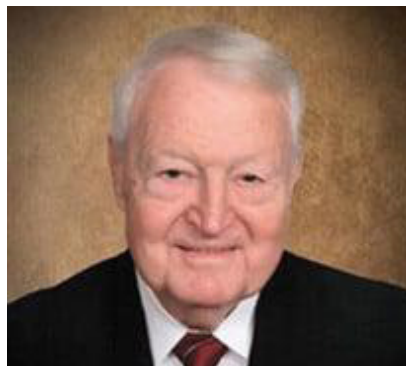
Thailand, where he shared his bowling ability with the Thai princess. He likewise shared his love of baseball and softball by coaching and umpiring for many years. He was a musician as well, playing bass at his church, with his family, in the ETSU Bluegrass Band, and with his dear friends at Music Junction. He owned The Leather Shop in Rogersville and worked at Dodge, from which he retired. He was a member of New Life Missionary Baptist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his infant sister, Velma Jones; his wife, Mabel Greene Jones; and special cousin, Arthur Davenport.

He is survived by his daughter, Carla Sells and husband James; his grandchildren, Savannah Sells, Elijah Sells and wife Kirah; his great-grandchildren, Andrew and Silas; his brother-in-law, Charles Greene and wife Linda; his sisters-in-law, Anna Hamblen and Betty Simpson; special cousins Albert Lee, Audrey, Roger, Joe, and Kaye; and his many friends at Music Junction.

Online condolences may be sent at:
www.christiansells.com.

Mr. Bill R. Dodson, 90, of Kingsport, died Friday, October 14, 2022, at his residence.



Bill Dodson was born October 3, 1932, in Rutledge, TN to the late Robert E. Dodson, Sr. and Trula Smith Dodson.

Bill was a licensed funeral director and embalmer in the Tri-Cities area for over twenty-five years where he managed

several funeral homes and cemeteries.

Bill retired as a sales representative for Clarksburg/Aurora Casket Company following twenty-five years of service.

Larry Woody is the father of Matthew Woody, employee of Manes Funeral Home, Newport, TN.



Larry Woody, age 60, of Cosby, passed away Thursday, November 3, 2022, surrounded by those he loved.

Larry was an avid outdoorsman who loved hunting, fishing and farming, especially with his son.

He was preceded in death by his father, Mack Woody; and sister, Maxine Henderson.

He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Deborah Sue Woody; and his son Matthew Woody, who never left his side during his illness. He is also survived by his mother, Sarah Woody; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Leon and Mary Sue Large; brother and sister-in-law, Gary, and Janice Woody; sister and brother-in-law, Donna Sue, and Jimmy McCarter; brother-in-law Gary Henderson. He also leaves behind, nieces and nephews, Josh, Lindsay, Tucker, and Sadie Henderson; Lindsey, Scooter and Addilyn Shults; Collin and Jennifer Woody; as well as a host of other family and friends.

Arrangements by Manes Funeral Home.
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25,167 miles



2019 Dodge Caravan GT
36,700 miles



2014 Eagle Cadillac Limo
75,000 miles



2008 Superior Cadillac Limo
22,282 miles



2006 Superior Cadillac Limo
34,550 miles



Linda Jane Byrd, age 81 of Manchester, born on September 26, 1941, in Maryville, TN and went home to be with our Lord on November 14, 2022, surrounded by her loving family.

Linda was a faithful follower of the Lord, and her life and spoken words were testimonies of that faithfulness. Linda was a beloved wife, mother, nana, sister, aunt, and friend. She will be missed

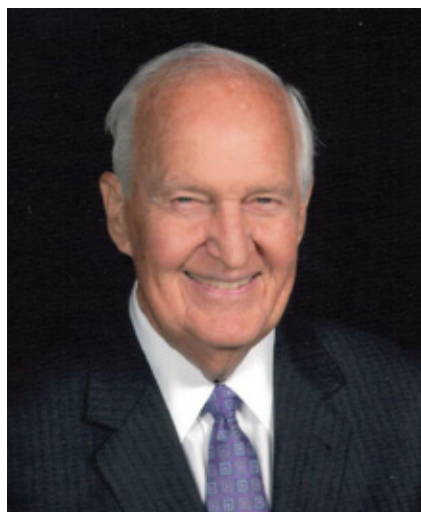
by all who knew her, but we find peace in knowing she is now in the arms of Jesus and reunited with her loving husband of 62 years and high school sweetheart, Rev. Clarence Byrd.

Linda served as a pastor's wife for many years. First in Ypsilanti, Michigan, serving in all areas of Ministry at the church founded by her husband, Graceway Baptist Church. As the leaders of the church, they sponsored a student in Haiti. Linda relished in the days she received his pictures and postcards. After serving 20 years in Michigan, Linda and Clarence returned home to serve at Zion Chapel Baptist Church in Louisville, TN.

Linda had a heart for people and service and was honored to do the "Kingdom's Work". Always having open arms and an open heart to all, Linda taught throughout the years seeing many souls come to Christ. She was proud the day her daughter began working to carry on Linda and Clarence's legacy through ministry. Linda above all treasured her family, instilling the importance of family and compassion. She loved without hesitation and prayed fervently daily.

Preceded in death by her parents, Dory and Alice Gibbs; her lifelong love of 62 years, Clarence P Byrd; her sisters, Alice Houston of Maryville, TN, Dorothy Regan of Maryville, TN, Kathrine Holloway of Kentucky. Survived by daughter, Sherree' Bowen and her husband John Perry (JB) Bowen II of Manchester TN; grandchildren, Bryan Paul McAdams and wife Kaitlyn McAdams of Morrison, TN and Kayla Sherre' Rose and husband Michael Rose of Nashville, TN; great grandchildren, Brylyn Kate McAdams and Madison Grace McAdams of Morrison, TN; siblings, Ann Gredig and husband Chet of Walland, TN, Willie Pearl Caldwell and husband Ray of Walland, TN, Ed Gibbs and wife Katherine of Louisville, TN. Linda also had many nieces, nephews, and special friends that she adored.

The family would like to thank the nurses and caregivers of Hospice Compassus for their loving, compassionate care.



Mr. Harold W. Childress, President of Hamlett-Dobson Funeral Homes. The father-in-law of Chad Correll and grandfather of Carson Correll. Brother of Bob Childress. Tennessee Funeral Directors Association President 1973 - 74

Harold W. Childress (86) of Kingsport died at home surrounded by his family on November 17, 2022. He was born on his family's farm in Sullivan Gardens and excelled at raising dairy cattle. He received a B.S. in agriculture from the University of Tennessee and a M.S. from the University of Kentucky. As a student he won the individual high score at the national intercollegiate dairy cattle judging contest. Harold was employed with Carnation Company prior to joining Hamlett-Dobson Funeral Homes in 1961. He took the helm of Hamlett-Dobson in 1983, assisting thousands of grieving families for over 60 years.

Harold was a member of First Presbyterian Church where he served as elder, deacon, youth advisor, and choir member. He was active in Kiwanis since 1963 and participated on the boards of several community organizations. He is remembered for his ability to connect with everyone he met, for his love of family, his integrity, empathy, work ethic, good humor, and love of singing.

Harold is survived by his wife of 62 years, Emily Dobson Childress; son Watt Childress, wife Jennifer of Nehalem, Oregon; Larry Childress, wife Karen of Jonesborough; and daughter Beth Correll, husband Chad, of Kingsport. He is also survived by grandchildren Willa Childress, Carson Correll, Hayden Correll, Roan Childress, Elliott Childress, Spencer Correll, Susana Childress, and Foster Childress. He is also survived by sister Martha Pierce and brothers John Childress and Bob Childress, wife Dawn, as well as several nieces and nephews.

TFDA Memorial Donations

A donation was made to the TFDA Memorial Fund in the name of Mr. Robert E. Batson by:

Arrington Funeral Directors, Jackson, TN.
Bowlin Funeral Home, Dresden, TN.
Oakes & Nichols, Inc, Columbia, TN

A donation was made to the TFDA Memorial Fund in the name of Bill Dodson by:

Oakes & Nichols, Inc, Columbia, TN

Congratulations Mr. Paul H. Miles on your Retirement



Kyker Funeral Home, General Manager, Funeral Director. Paul was born and raised in East Tennessee and had interest in the funeral business when he was just a teenager at Roane County High School. Paul at the age of 14 would go to Kyker Funeral Home in Kingston after school to learn the business and assist. Upon graduation from RCHS in 1980 Paul served a year apprenticeship at Booth Funeral Home, Rockwood and the second year of apprenticeship at Kyker Funeral Home, Kingston. He then was employed by Booth Funeral Home where he served for 3 years. In 1984 Paul was employed by Kyker Funeral Home and became a licensed Funeral Director in 1988. He then became General Manager of the Kyker Kingston location in 1996 where he continues to serve families today and has strong ties to the community. Paul was the past president of the Greater Knoxville Funeral Service Associates and currently serves as the Secretary Treasurer of the Greater Knoxville Funeral Service Associates for 15 years. He is a three-time past President of the Kingston Lions Club where he was a member for 30 years, and holds the 1991 Lion of the year award, 2011 Lion of the Decade award and the prestigious Melvin Jones Fellow award. He is a current member of Union Lodge #38 F.&A.M., current member of Kingston chapter #405 Order of Eastern Star, a current member of Tennessee Funeral Directors Association and the National Funeral Directors Association. He is also a licensed insurance agent and Pre-need Counselor. Paul enjoys spending time with family and friends and cares for his fur babies Jasper and Sadie.

A Special Salute to TFDA Exclusive Premier Partner **Matthews- Aurora Funeral Solutions**

TFDA recently received a request from the Tennessee State Guard of Nashville's 911th Military Police Battalion. The 911th Police Battalion will be introducing additional training for the Honor Guard division and contacted TFDA as a resource to locate a casket. Realizing the importance of upholding time-honored funeral rituals when honoring the service of Tennessee's finest, TFDA turned to our premier partner, Matthews-Aurora Funeral Solutions.

TFDA contacted Mr. Mike Blair, a longtime friend to TFDA and Senior Sales advisor for Matthews-Aurora Funeral Solutions, on November 3rd. After a brief explanation Mike immediately realized the importance of our situation and immediately went to work on the solution. The following day, November 4th, Matthews-Aurora Funeral Solutions donated, and delivered, a casket to the grateful Honor Guard of the TN State Guard of Nashville 911th Military Police Battalion.

TFDA would like to thank Matthews-Aurora Funeral Solutions, and Mr. Mike Blair, for their understanding, and unwavering support.





Matthews® Aurora

FUNERAL SOLUTIONS

As the “Exclusive Primer Partner”, Matthews Aurora Funeral Solutions has been and will continue to support TFDA with our programs, partnership and our Total Solutions. We want to re-introduce our sales team in Tennessee. Our team has many years of funeral service experience that can help you not only survive these challenging times but thrive in an ever-changing market. Experience the Matthews Aurora Difference!



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

I've been with Matthews Aurora for 26 years. I am also a licensed funeral director & embalmer for the past 36 years graduating from Dallas Institute of Funeral Service. My travels include most of middle and west Tennessee, northern Mississippi and western Kentucky. My wife Reda and I live in Franklin, TN. with our baby Ragdoll cat Bella.



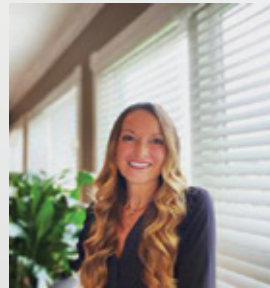
David Frye (812) 584-0146
dfrye@auroracasket.com

Regional Sales Director with over 20 years in leadership roles, most recently, the past 5 years with Matthews Aurora. Cincinnati is my home, where I live with my wife Amy, my Boston Terriers Phineas and Phoebe.



Daniel Pierce
812-577-2801

“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 I and our two children currently reside in Cleveland, TN.”



Shannon Kalthoff Carver
865-274-6498
scarver@matw.com

I have been a Funeral Service Consultant with Matthews Aurora serving East and Middle Tennessee since September 2021. Before following in my father's footsteps and joining the Matthews Aurora team, I taught middle school English for 15 years. I attended the University of Tennessee graduating with a degree in English Literature and a Masters of Science. I live in Knoxville with my teenagers, Marghee and Trey.



Max Miller
mmiller@auroracasket.com
618-559-4367

Matthews Aurora Funeral Consultant
30 years in casket sales
5 years Preneed Insurance Sales
25 Years Licensed Embalmer & Funeral Director

Presently travel West TN, North MS, Southeast MO and Southern IL for Matthews Aurora Funeral Service Married to Janis Wolters Miller
5 Children
21 grandchildren
1 great granddaughter



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

Tripp Byrd is a Sales Consultant for Matthews Aurora Funeral Solutions and Past President of the TFSSC and has worked for Matthews since 2007. He started his career in 1996 with a small regional company named West Point Casket Company, joining his father who retired in 2017 and is also a Past President of the TFSSC. Tripp and his wife Judy, reside in Arlington and have four children, Dede, Staci, Kristy, and Chelsie. Tripp enjoys hunting, fishing, the outdoors, and watching his grandchildren play ball, ride four wheelers, and racing dirt bikes.

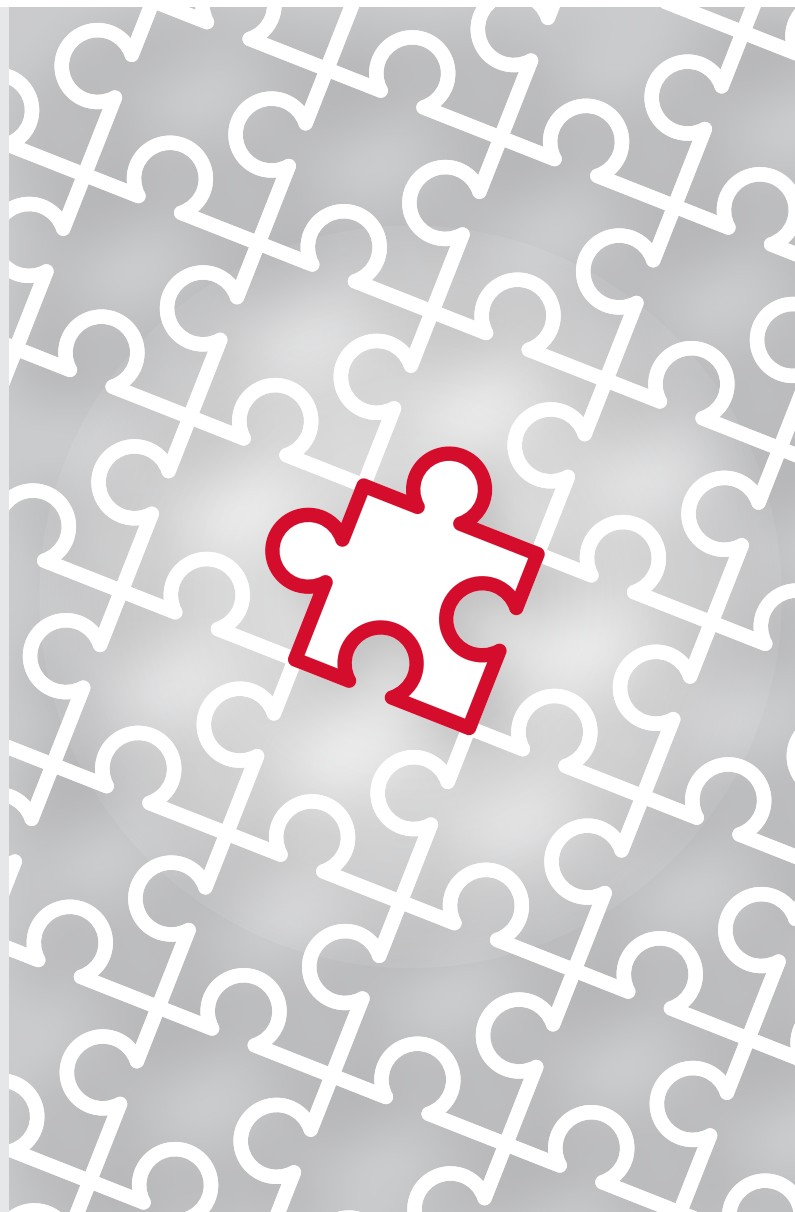


Experience the Matthews Aurora™ **DIFFERENCE.**

IF you want a partner who provides the tools and training to make your job easier.

What is the Matthews Aurora Difference?

Our expert sales team delivers the most up-to-date, relevant solutions to help your business grow and succeed. From I'll Remember You®, our industry-leading cremation program, to Compass™, our proprietary business analysis tool; from our digital merchandising solutions to our innovative Professional Development curriculum, your Matthews Aurora Funeral Service Consultant has a comprehensive toolkit to help you and your staff exceed the expectations of today's families.



Discover Matthews Aurora™ Funeral Solutions.

Please contact us at 1.800.457.1111 to be connected with your Matthews Aurora Funeral Service Consultant.