



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Making The South Shore A Better Place

Honoring Leadership:

John Keohane Concludes Term as Board Chair of Selected Independent Funeral Homes



Robert J. Paterkiewicz, the Executive Director & CEO of Selected Independent Funeral Homes, John E. Keohane, Karen M. Keohane

We're proud to share that John Keohane, Co-President of Keohane Funeral & Cremation, has completed his term as Board Chair (2024–2025) of Selected Independent Funeral Homes, an international association of independently owned funeral homes dedicated to upholding the highest standards of care and service.

John served on the organization's Board of Directors from 2021 through 2024, helping to guide the profession with integrity, compassion, and a

deep commitment to ethical leadership. As Board Chair, he worked with funeral service leaders across the country to promote best practices, strengthen professional education, and support member firms in their work with families.

"We are incredibly proud of John's service and leadership," said Dennis Keohane, Co-President of Keohane Funeral & Cremation. "His dedication to helping families during their most difficult times extends far beyond our local communities and reflects a national commitment to care, compassion, and professionalism."

Founded in 1917, Selected Independent Funeral Homes is the world's oldest association of independently owned funeral homes. Its members share a common commitment to continuous learning and exceptional service.

John's leadership, both here at home and on the national stage, reflects Keohane's enduring promise to serve with excellence, integrity, and heart.

FEATURED OBITUARY

A Life Well-Lived:

The Legacy of Jacqueline Holmes Haley

Jacqueline Holmes Haley, of Weymouth, passed away peacefully at home with her family by her side on August 3, 2025 after a long struggle with metastatic ovarian cancer. Born the youngest of 7 siblings to Mel and Clare Holmes, Jackie grew up in Ridgewood, New Jersey. She attended The University of Denver, where she studied English and graduated in 1983.

Jackie continued on to Suffolk University Law School in Boston, where she met her loving husband of nearly 40 years, Paul R. Haley.

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Jacqueline Holmes Haley

She wrote for the Transnational Law Journal and graduated with honors in 1986. Jackie and Paul married shortly after graduation. Jackie entered private practice with Roche, Carens, and DeGiacomo, P.C., where she was a stalwart in the litigation department for 13 years, eventually making partner. She served as lead attorney on large lender liability cases and many complex product liability actions. Her partners remember her as an incredibly bright and skilled attorney with a wonderful sense of humor.

After taking some time at home to raise three children, Jackie made the decision in the early 2000s to pursue a true life passion of teaching. She was a devoted teacher of English at Weymouth High School while earning her Masters degree in Teaching from Bridgewater State University. Jackie enjoyed improving the writing skills of her upperclassmen students preparing them for college.

Jackie remained on the faculty in Weymouth until her cancer diagnosis precluded her ability to continue. Her colleagues in the English department asserted that her absence was keenly felt and that her kindness, generosity and wisdom would be missed forever.

Giving back was central to Jackie's character. She was a longstanding member of the Board of Directors of South Shore Hospital, and served as chair from 1997 to 2006, the first woman to do so. She volunteered for the St. Boniface Haiti Foundation, connecting the foundation with resources, and giving her time to their hospital in Haiti for many years. She also taught CCD at St. Francis Xavier Church in Weymouth. Jackie

was also passionate about civic engagement and contributed in many ways to a variety of causes, from aid drives to voter registration.

Jackie was a voracious reader and left behind a wide-reaching collection of thoroughly annotated books. She was particularly interested in text that helped her expand her capacity for empathy, and she was passionate about educating herself on the experiences of others. She embraced the practice of daily meditation, and pursued philosophies surrounding acceptance and harmony with the world around us. Her shared wisdom from her reading was deeply appreciated and valued, especially by her children and husband.

Jackie loved curating and tending to her flower and herb garden in her backyard. She was active and enjoyed long walks around Weymouth with her dogs Scotty, Lily, and Phyllis, as well as regular practice of yoga. Jackie also cherished spending time with her family on Lake Winnepesaukee in New Hampshire, admiring the beauty of the surrounding mountains and local wildlife during sunset cruises on the family boat. Most of all, Jackie cherished being a mom, wife, sister, and friend. She always made herself available to support those she loved. Anyone who knew Jackie experienced a true sense of her whole being - kind, witty, brilliant, and creative. She inspired us all by the way she lived, and she will be so deeply missed by those who knew her.

She was the beloved wife of former state representative Paul R. Haley; Loving mother of LT Michael P. Haley, USN and his wife Cynthia, of Santa Monica, CA; Christopher Haley of Somerville, MA; and Erin Haley of New York City. Loving sister of Clare Newbrand of Wake Forest, NC; Karen Jensen of Needham; Joan Obecnay of Roscoe, NY; Cathy Holmes of Vienna, VA; Donald Holmes of Fairplay, CO, and the late Patricia Clark of Hyannisport. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Jackie's family would like to extend their deepest thanks to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, especially Dr. Ursula Matulonis and her Oncology team and the nurses who took such good care of Jackie for so many years. Additionally, the family is enormously indebted to the nursing staff with Beacon Hospice Care of Plymouth, who provided immeasurable support and eased Jackie's progression with such grace and reverence.

To learn more or donate flowers visit keohane.com



Parting Stone:

Honoring Loved Ones in a New Way

At Keohane Funeral & Cremation, our mission has always been to help families say goodbye with compassion, respect, and meaning. That's why we are proud to partner with Parting Stone, an innovative cremation alternative that transforms ashes into a collection of smooth, stone-like memorials. This unique option offers families a deeply comforting way to remember and keep their loved one close.

Parting Stone is a company that transforms cremated remains – whether human or pet – into beautiful, stone-like memorials. These smooth, tactile pieces offer a comforting alternative to scattering ashes or dividing them among family members in urns. The process involves collecting the ashes, purifying them to remove contaminants, refining them into a clay-like consistency, and shaping them into stones. Once solidified in a kiln, the stones are returned to the family to be held, shared, displayed, or carried close.

The result is usually a set of 40-80+ of these stones, smooth and uniquely shaped. Because every person (or pet) is unique, each set has its own individual colors, textures, and feel.

For many families, traditional cremated ashes feel abstract, heavy, or difficult to relate to in daily life. Parting Stone offers a more tangible, personal way to remember someone you love.

Parting Stone offers families connection and comfort by turning ashes into something tangible, bringing peace in a way that ashes sometimes cannot. Because each set includes multiple stones, families can share them among loved ones, place them in different meaningful locations, or incorporate them into memorial displays. Beyond their practicality, the stones themselves are beautiful, resembling timeless artifacts of

remembrance. They naturally invite storytelling, reflection, and daily moments of connection.

Grief has no one “right” path. What matters is that you find ways to remember, to feel connected, and to hold close the love you shared. At Keohane Funeral Home, we believe offering meaningful alternatives – like those from Parting Stone – helps people do just that. We're honored to provide this option and to walk with you in every step of remembrance.



If you or a loved one is considering a solidified remains option, or you just want to learn more, please reach out. We'd be glad to explain the process, show samples, or help you decide what feels right for you.

Visit www.partingstone.com

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:

**A Q&A with Matthew Van Drimmelen,
Owner & President of Full-Circle Aftercare**



After years working on commuter rail projects and right of way, Matthew Van Drimmelen's career took an unexpected turn. In 2013, a friend introduced him to a pressing problem in funeral service: families struggling with the complex logistics of closing estate issues after the loss of a loved one. Inspired to make a difference, Matt founded Full-Circle Aftercare.

Q: What inspired you to transition from civil engineering to founding Full-Circle Aftercare?

A: I really stumbled upon it, but it started with a conversation I had with a good friend who works in a funeral home. He was tasked with meeting families after funerals to discuss options and pre-planning their own funerals.

The phenomenon he noticed was that every family he met with whether rich or poor, organized or not, with kids or without, was incredibly stressed about what happens after a funeral. These families really had nowhere to turn. We just don't think about that part of death. We focus on the legal side, like transferring assets, but not on the emotional side or the logistics of everything that person's life touched, be it a credit card, a government benefit, or a Facebook account...everything must be updated.

He explained it to me like this: I had just moved, and he asked, "How many people did you have to contact to update your address?" I realized, out of the woodwork, everything had to change. Now imagine that process multiplied tenfold when someone passes away. Families are given checklists of what to do, but they're grieving, and calling businesses in that state is incredibly awkward. You're sitting on hold thinking, "My wife just died, and I have to cancel the cell phone?" It's difficult for everyone involved.

He told me the average family takes a year and a half to make these notifications, and many miss a lot. For example, Social Security looked at widows who should have received an increased benefit after a spouse's death, only 18% received it. That means 82% were underpaid for the rest of their lives. Attorneys don't handle this type of work, and no one else does. Families need a service with no sales pitch or ulterior motive, just help. I couldn't sleep for days thinking about it. My own wife and I decided this needed to be done. Government work was fine, but I realized it was time to move on.

Q: Can you walk us through the typical journey of a family when they engage with your team?

A: Our service is gifted by Keohane. During the initial meeting with the funeral director, families start the process because they need to order death certificates. The funeral director explains all the people that need to be contacted, which can feel like a heavy burden. Then the funeral director introduces our service, saying something like, "One of the things that makes our funeral home unique is that we have someone assigned to help you. Use them as much as you'd like and it's completely free."

We reach out and schedule an appointment when the family is comfortable. Some want to start right away; others wait a few weeks. The first step is discovery: figuring out what needs to be done. This might involve pulling credit reports to see open accounts, or we might use information the family has already organized. We then create an action plan and do everything the family wants us to do.

We handle notifications, paperwork, and calls to companies, organizations, and government agencies. Families can stay on the phone with us or let us handle it independently. There are a few things we can't do, like change a car title or handle probate; we can guide families on those tasks, but otherwise, we handle everything. Typically, a family is completely done in two to three weeks, rather than years.

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Q: How do you ensure that families feel supported, especially when dealing with businesses while grieving?

A: This is where the human touch comes in. One of our founding principles is helping women, particularly those re-entering the workforce after caregiving, rebuild their resumes. Many people we hire are mothers or caregivers who need work experience, and helping families allows them to gain the skills and experience they can showcase in future jobs.

There's a certain personality type required to help these families. You can't be too patronizing or too pushy. Our team meets families where they are emotionally, guiding them step by step. Some widows have never touched the checkbook; others are financially savvy and just need a partner to make sure everything is completed.

The calls we handle (such as canceling services or notifying agencies) can be tedious and stressful. Our team protects the family from the transactional side while allowing them to ask questions and stay informed.

Q: Do you have a particularly memorable situation that highlighted the significance of your service?

A: There are so many, but one stands out. A young widow, whose husband was military, had three small children. He became terminally ill, and she quit her job to care for him full-time. When he passed, she had no support and no knowledge of how things worked. The landlord threatened eviction if the rent wasn't paid.

In just two and a half hours, we had everything organized: notifications were complete, she received life insurance and Social Security benefits she didn't know about, food stamps, and local community support. At the end of that call, she said, "I can do this." I broke down, it was incredible to see someone go from complete hopelessness to having a plan, resources, and the confidence to move forward for her children.

Q: Where do you see the future of aftercare services heading?

A: Aftercare will remain human-centered. AI and digital tools can help with tasks like finding assets or filling out paperwork, but grieving families need real human interaction. A computer can't provide the warmth, empathy, and understanding that a person can. Technology will enhance efficiency, but the human touch will always be essential.

Q: Can you share your experience working with Keohane specifically?

A: Keohane is exceptional. Their attention to detail is elite. They treat every family as individuals that need care. From the moment you arrive, staff greet you, guide you, and make the experience feel personal. They focus on service first, and it's an honor to be a small part of that process.

Q: Anything else you'd like to add?

A: I would like to clarify that we are not a legal service. Attorneys are important for estate closure, but we handle the practical tasks that families don't want an attorney doing.

We also provide five layers of fraud protection for every family. Every year, 2.5 million deceased individuals have their identities stolen, often while families are trying to wrap things up. Our program protects families and their estates in ways they may not even realize, providing safety and peace of mind during a difficult time. Beyond these safeguards, the heart of our work remains the same: offering comfort, clarity, and compassion when families need it most.

What began as a single conversation between friends has grown into a national movement of care and compassion. Thanks to Van Drimmelen's vision, countless families now have the guidance and support they need to move forward with confidence after loss.

Learn more at www.full-circlecare.com

Home at Last

Weymouth Welcomes Pvt. Alfred T. Langevin, U.S. Army

It is with solemn honor and heartfelt reverence that we announce the homecoming of Private Alfred Thomas Langevin, U.S. Army, who was killed in Action during World War II and remained Missing in Action for over 80 years.

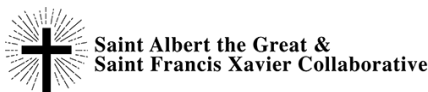
The Town of Weymouth welcomes fellow veterans, Gold Star families, local students, civic organizations, and anyone wishing to honor the life and sacrifice of Pvt. Alfred T. Langevin. Let us join as a community to give him the homecoming he has long deserved.

Pvt. Alfred T. Langevin, United States Army, will lie in honor at Weymouth Town Hall, 75 Middle Street, on Sunday, November 9, 2025, from 12 to 3 PM. All are welcome to pay tribute.



KEOHANE IN THE COMMUNITY

To best serve our communities, we need to actively support them.
We are proud to sponsor these local organizations, among others:



ANNUAL Coat Drive 2025



Our annual coat drive is happening now through November 30th! Please help us collect 1,000 gently worn adult and children's winter coats to help our South Shore neighbors in need.

Please join the cause to provide warmth and comfort this year for those less fortunate.

Coats will be distributed through 2 local organizations: **Interfaith Social Services** and **Wellspring Multi-Service Center**.

Supporters willing to donate are asked to bring gently-used adult or children's coats to any Keohane or Dependable Cleaner locations. Coats will be cleaned upon donation.

The winter coat drive continues through the end of November.

Help us meet our goal to collect 1,000 coats this winter.

DROP OFF LOCATIONS:

Keohane

785 Hancock Street, Quincy
21 Emerald Street, Hingham
809 Main Street, S. Weymouth

Dependable Cleaners

298 Main Street - Hingham
391 Washington Street, Braintree
581 Adams Street, Quincy

BLOG HIGHLIGHT:

Creative Ways to Personalize a Memorial Service

Every life is unique, and a memorial service should be too. For years, families and friends took a cookie-cutter approach to funeral services, but as time has gone on, the desire for one-of-a-kind sendoffs has come to light. At Keohane Funeral Home, we believe a meaningful tribute is not just about saying goodbye, but about celebrating the individuality, passions, and legacy of your loved one. Personalizing a memorial service helps family and friends connect more deeply to the person they're remembering. Here are a few creative ways to honor a life with thoughtfulness and love:

Tell Their Story Through Keepsakes

Consider creating a memory table or display filled with cherished items: a favorite hat, artwork, travel souvenirs, or a beloved book collection. These simple, personal touches bring their personality to life.

Incorporate Their Passions

Was your loved one an avid gardener, musician, or sports fan?

"Carolyn Delorey with Keohane Funeral Home was wonderful, she has kept in touch. Thank you for the Aftercare service, this was really helpful."

- Kara Z

"Margaux Bettencourt was wonderful, kind, empathetic, and smart. She did a great job, everyone was impressed. She guided us by hand, and that made everything go smoothly. Thank you for this helpful Aftercare service. You mentioned the Protection Services, and I didn't know about that."

- Joan C

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Integrate those elements into the service. From floral arrangements inspired by their garden to a musical performance of their favorite song, small details can make a big impact.

Custom Memorial Programs or Guestbooks

Design printed materials that reflect your loved one's life story. Include photos, meaningful quotes, or even recipes they were known for. You can also offer a personalized guestbook where attendees share memories or messages of love.

Video Tributes and Slideshows

A tribute video filled with favorite music and family photos can provide comfort and joy. Played during the service and shared online afterward, it becomes a keepsake that families can treasure forever.

Interactive Memory Activities

Invite guests to write down a memory on cards, share stories during the service, or contribute to a digital memory wall. These shared reflections help build a legacy of love that endures long after the day.

Meaningful Ceremony Locations

Think beyond traditional venues. Whether it's a service by the ocean, in a family backyard, or at a favorite hiking trail, the setting can speak volumes about the life being honored.

Personalized Music and Readings

Select songs, poems, or readings that held special significance. You might include lyrics that resonated with your loved one or readings by their favorite authors.

No matter how you choose to personalize a memorial service, the goal is to reflect the spirit of the person you loved and to bring people together in a way that feels authentic and heartfelt. At Keohane, we're honored to help families create services that are as unique and memorable as the lives they celebrate.

Interested in planning a personalized service? Contact us today! We're here to help every step of the way.



Welcome Back, Joe Reardon

We are delighted to welcome back Joseph Reardon to the Keohane team as Vice President for Community Development and Advance Planning. A familiar face to many, Reardon brings years of experience serving families across the South Shore with care, compassion, and an unwavering commitment to helping them plan meaningful tributes.

He believes deeply in the value of advance planning, not only for the peace of mind it provides families, but for the opportunity it creates to celebrate relationships and memories. His thoughtful approach and dedication to community service, both personally and professionally, make him a perfect fit for this role.

Please join us in welcoming him home to Keohane.

START YOUR ADVANCED PLANNING JOURNEY



"Keohane Funeral Home was excellent. Very good at your work."

- Andrew S

"John Congdon did an excellent job. I can not say enough good things about him. He sent me a thank-you card, which I thought was so sweet. This Aftercare service is so helpful, the email will be a great resource for me. I am very happy with McDonald Keohane Funeral Home."

- Margret L

"This Aftercare service is great, and I really appreciated it. John with McDonald Keohane Funeral Home is great at his job. It was good having someone that takes the time to do an amazing job. Communication was important and perfect. The follow up was top notch."

- Donald C