

# The Dead Beat



## The Caregiver's Soapbox



*Dedicated to providing information about the people and places involved in the funeral industry*

Volume 13

[www.thedead-beat.com](http://www.thedead-beat.com)

Issue 5



*Honorable Memories*

### Honorable Memories

Honorable Memories, LLC was started by Philip A. Miller. Phil served 29 years in the North Dakota National Guard; he also served as the director of the North Dakota Veterans Cemetery. Phil retired as the director of the cemetery on December 31, 2011. Retirement lasted a few hours through the New Year's Day and the next day, he started a new business with his son, Curtis, who serves as the production manager. Curt earned a Bachelor's degree in biology and had been employed with Target Corporation for 21 years where he gained vast experience in retail and customer service. Curt also served in the ND National Guard for nine years.



The Millers' priority is to use their past experiences to produce great products that honor military service while providing outstanding customer service. The Millers have over thirty-five years of combined military experience.

During Phil's tenure at the ND Veterans Cemetery, Phil recognized a niche for specialized products with a military theme. The main focus of the business is to manufacture cremation urns in the shape of a military headstone, for which Phil has applied for a US patent.



Other items they believe will be very popular are the engraved Memorial Plaque which comes with a metal branch-of-service medallion that covers a recess cut out for a small portion of cremated remains, it can be placed on the front or backside of the keepsake plaque.

The metal branch-of-service medallion can also be recessed on the front of the urns at the very top in lieu of religious emblems of belief typically found on veteran's headstones, which is becoming very popular. The urns and plaques can be personalized with information typically found on a veteran's headstone or the family can choose any information they feel is appropriate. The memorial and keepsake plaques can be engraved as well. A flag case is offered separately or as part of a "package" that combines items.

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### Amy Howard Art Gallery



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The editor's daughter Amy, who was mentioned in our previous issues, was quite the artist and we've decided to display some of her artwork every issue in her memory.



Amy Howard

### Editor's Hobby Quilling (Paper Curling)



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## Mortuary Muse By Lowell

A celebration of life—which life?—and how much celebration? These are valid questions that require a guiding neutrality by the funeral director/arrangement counselor.

Certain aspects of the celebration of life need to be considered. Let's start with the video tribute. As part of the service it can add a meaningful personal touch. But does running the video continuously during calling hours or as a long line of visitation attendees file pass make *less* impact? Or does it just *slow the line* when two hundred people are lined up on the sidewalk? Does running this video in the background as the minister speaks during the service really become *a bit distracting*? These are my personal observations and the families will choose what they prefer.

Another issue to consider is the display and arrangement of large quantities of photographs, art objects and mementos. It can be a challenge on where the placement will be—especially if they have to be moved to a different location or if it also can slow the line. But it shows the person's life and adds to the celebration.

This rambling sounds a lot like grumbling more than discussing, even though it's not. We are grateful if we can help a family through this sad time with videos and pictures and it also means that they did not choose disposition without any

service. So when these items are requested just keep in mind some of the possible results.

In the matter of "which life" to celebrate—that dilemma may be as old as funeral service. There must be dozens of jokes about double checking to see if the person in the casket was the same person the eulogist was speaking about.

For example, our son, living in an adjoining state attended a coworker's service arranged by her parents. Other attendees agreed that the video tribute was very moving. The woman portrayed in it could put "Mary Poppins" to shame. To her contemporary friends it was—what happened to the "Biker Babe."

As to the question of how much celebration of life—most family members probably wish they had remembered one more thing the deceased had been honored for.

But for some friends maybe there is a little too much celebration and remembering. A funeral home media consultant recently told of a service for a young woman. The family had a large visitation at the funeral home but opted to have a service/reception at a public facility with a number of speakers and musical groups lasting more than two hours. Some left early or didn't come.

So how will you direct your celebrations of life??

About the Author: Lowell Pugh has had funeral director and embalmer licenses in Missouri and Texas and continues the operation of the family funeral home which started in 1904. He is publisher of **The Dead Beat** which began in 1999. He can be contacted at **The Dead Beat** address.

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*And the winner is...*  
**Salvador Perches**  
**Funeral Director of the Year**



On Wednesday, December 3, 2013, Salvador was among many of his peers at a conference in New Orleans, Louisiana when the winner was announced. Salvador Perches is a native El Pasoan, owner of the La Paz-Perches Funeral Homes in El Paso, Las Cruces, Cd. Juarez, San Diego, Escondido and Tijuana clenched the honor of 2013 Funeral Director of the year.

The magazine American Funeral Director created the award in recognition of the many funeral professionals throughout the country who make their community and co-workers proud. The nominees were impressive said

Lauren Moore, but Salvador stood out. Not only because his businesses are thriving but his passion to the neighboring city of Cd. Juarez where his father first opened their first funeral home in 1958 has been engulfed in a ferocious drug war for the past couple of years. His commitment and servicing the many families affected by the terrible violence with dignified and affordable funerals and providing the victims and their families with free grief counseling shows his dedication and love to the industry he grew up in.



West El Paso, is Salvador Perches's 19th funeral home.

Other factors that helped secure his win were:

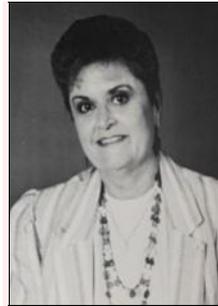
- ◆ 2013 Latino Champion Entrepreneur of the year in San Diego, CA (<http://utsandiego.com/news/2013/Mar/21/latino-union-tribune-champions-seaworld>)
- ◆ Free burials to the elderly who have died alone in a government owned nursing home in Cd. Juarez at no cost-a tradition started by his father more than 30 years ago.
- ◆ In San Diego the chapels are used by non-profit organizations for services, literacy groups and voting facilities.
- ◆ Working with the Candle Lighter Foundation, SPJ, Casa de Asis and other non-profit organizations both in El Paso and Cd. Juarez.

Recently celebrated 100 years of Graham's Mortuary in service.

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**Mary Therese (Sheil) Carroll**



Mary Therese (Sheil) Carroll passed away on December 28, 2013. She was the proud daughter of John Parnell Sheil and Laurine Bridget (Kelly) Sheil founders of the Sheil Funeral Homes, Inc. Her husband of 65 years was Richard E. Carroll, Sr. She was a licensed Funeral Director in the State of Missouri and part-owner in the Sheil Funeral Home.

Mary Therese Carroll of Kansas City earned a great deal of distinction in being elected President of the 5th Congressional District of Democratic Women for two times, an event highlighting an exceptionally long and illustrious record of involvement in Democratic Politics. She played a key role in promoting the goals and ideals of the Democratic Party through her invaluable guidance as a board member besides her presidency. She also served on the board of the National Federation of Democratic Women, as an Executive Committee member of the State Democratic Party and as Legislative Co-Chair of the Jackson County Democratic Party.

Her leadership at the local level included being treasurer of the Blue Valley Democrats, as 12th Ward Democratic Committee woman, as a member of the Public Safety Committee of Odyssey 2000, as President of the Historic Northeast Restoration Committee, and as a member of the Blue Valley Business Association.

In 1993 she received a Resolution from the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Bob F. Griffin, in honor of her election to the Presidency of the 5th Congressional District of Democratic Women.

She also had been a co-founder and treasurer of the Sheffield Neighborhood Association, as well, as charter member and Director of Northeast East Alliance Together (NEAT). She was founder and President of Old Northeast, Inc., board member of the Kansas City Neighborhood Alliance, 2nd District At-Large Representative on the Public Improvement Advisory Committee and as Co-Chair of the Committee to build a new Haz-Mat station.

Her services were handled by the McGilley & Sheil Chapel, Kansas City, Missouri.



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# Behind the Back Fence

By Lowell

NFDA's "Talk the Talk of a Lifetime" is a way to educate families and the public as to the value of funerals is commendable and perhaps overly idealistic.

Getting families together for even one session to discover and explore family values is a challenge. Gathered around the bed or ICU waiting room is a poor substitute. Thanksgiving seems to be the family holiday that has the most family members attending together these days. But between after turkey drowsiness and the competing football games serious dialog is going to be rare. The same is the case with Christmas and New Year's. I'm pretty sure Super Bowl Sunday will not work either. So how do we have this family value of the funeral talk? Elementary!

The "Talk" has to be on "Facebook!" Not only is all your family there, but also all of your friends, neighbors, club members and business associates. Those people who prefer to stick to simple disposition with no services can be unfriended and banished to Twitter.

\*\*\*\*\*

The January issue of NFDA's **Director** had several laundry lists of New Year's resolutions by funeral directors and industry vendors. Most were resolutions to implement new programs or attitudes and all were commendable.

Some were attention getting. One said,

"Although there are still too many funeral homes, the number is thinning in many communities," and by most standards of economic and demographic rules this is surely true. But when any business has declined to the point that suppliers do not acknowledge them as a client or customer, the funeral home needs to make some hard decisions. When a declining business can no longer generate the profits that provide things in life that the owner desires—it's time to go.

However, for some individuals the business is their life along with the intangibles that come with it. Sometimes the bean counters just don't understand.

Some other notable resolutions. "Stop discounting cremation services." "Raise the morale of the staff. And "Abandon my suit as often as possible."

What were your resolutions???

\*\*\*\*\*

Now for the really interesting discussion. What about everything you would want to know about our fiber sustainability? Yes, there was a discussion about the carbon imprint and other green traits of cloth used in trimming caskets and making burial clothing and burial shrouds. Jonas A. Zahn

in the last few months of Funeral Home and Cemetery News discussed how this information should assist funeral directors as they help clients choose the "greenest" burial clothing. This may be based on the assumption that everyone is going to buy new burial clothing. Over the years our market moved from probably 50 or 60% new burial clothing to 0% in most years.

I don't know what the carbon imprint of a used suit is, but obviously a wool suit will biodegrade faster than a polyester leisure suit.

Jonas implied that our western culture isn't much into burial shrouds. In the early 1900's my family sold a few shrouds. There has been only one time in my career in our funeral home that I could have used a shroud, but it would not have gone very well with his cowboy boots.

\*\*\*\*\*

Who gets credit for celebrating life? A panel of clerics and ceremonial spokespersons were broadcast on the BBC during the Mandela mourning period. Each one spoke about their denomination's or group's traditions. A Methodist clergyman from the UK explained that religious ceremony affirmed that the deceased was now with God and the remainder of the service commemorated the person with a celebration of life. Instantly the Humanist representative (also from the UK) announced that a celebration of life belonged to their movement. Other participants ignored the turf war. All were rejoicing the celebrating of a great man.

Let's just remember we are always celebrating the lives of who we serve no matter what we call it.

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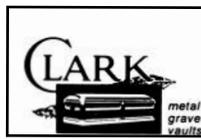
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### About the Author:

**Lowell Pugh** has had funeral director and embalmer licenses in Missouri and Texas and continues the operation of the family funeral home which started in 1904. He is publisher of **The Dead Beat** which began in 1999. He can be contacted at **The Dead Beat** address and [editor@thedead-beat.com](mailto:editor@thedead-beat.com)

# After-Thoughts *By Joanne Howard*

It's been an interesting last few weeks. I seemed to have done something to my left hip which has resulted in many days and nights of pain. Regretfully no great solution to my problem has been suggested and I'm still suffering.

The pain has reminded me of all the pain I experienced with the loss of my girls. It wasn't totally physical, but there was no solution to the loss. People don't realize how much pain the loss of a loved one causes and how you don't ever seem to get totally past it.

The pain hurts, but it affects your thinking and your whole approach on life. It also hits you when you least expect it and catches you off guard too easily.

I'm hoping that I can figure out some solutions to my pain. I also hope people who have lost loved ones can come up with their own individual ways of dealing with their pain.

I mentioned in the last issue about a young girl who was tragically kidnapped and murdered. The trial for the person accused of it is soon to happen. It's been about four months since the death and the

park where it happened has had things in memory of her since then.

On Facebook, I noticed that they were trying to get people to meet at the park with candles and such the night before the trial begins. I'm assuming they are having a prayer vigil for justice.

Now I have no problem with praying for justice, but I also feel that this is like pulling a scab off of the beginnings of healing from this tragedy. It will just bring it all up again. The trial will have done this on it's own and I know this will be hard on the family for weeks to come, but this other attention will bring it all back to square one.

Maybe this will help the court case in some way, but I'm not sure this is going to be helpful for the small community that is trying to go on with life. There has already been a day when they fixed up the park in her memory and now they are going to go back to the horrible circumstances.

Will this help or bring the fear back? I'm not sure and I pray it doesn't bring more pain back from the loss and how it

happened.

I guess I don't understand why this circumstance is any different from the loss of a child for whatever reason. It's something else to remember them on the day of loss or even their birthday, but the gathering, the trial, a conviction, all of this is not going to bring the child back. So that is why I am having a bit of trouble with this.

Hopefully this will be helpful for those dealing with the acceptance and pain of what has happened. I pray it will.



About the author: Joanne Howard is the editor of **The Dead Beat**. She has been a licensed funeral director since 1992 with Pugh Funeral Home in Golden City, MO and also the aftercare coordinator. Much of her writing in this column is influenced by her loss of her two daughters Laura at age 10 in 1997 and Amy at age 19 in 2003. Any comments or questions can be directed to 417-537-4412, P.O. Box 145, Golden City, MO 64748 or email: [jfhoward53@yahoo.com](mailto:jfhoward53@yahoo.com)



## Have Lunch With God

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with a bag of potato chips and a six-pack of root beer and started his journey.

When he had gone about three blocks, he met an old woman. She was sitting in the park, just staring at some pigeons. The boy sat down next to her and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed the old lady looked hungry, so he offered her some chips.

She gratefully accepted it and smiled at him. Her smile was so pretty that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered her a root beer. Again, she smiled at him. The boy was delighted!

They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As twilight approached, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave; but before he had gone more than a few steps he turned around, ran back to the old woman, and gave her a hug. She gave him her biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy?"

He replied, " I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? She's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

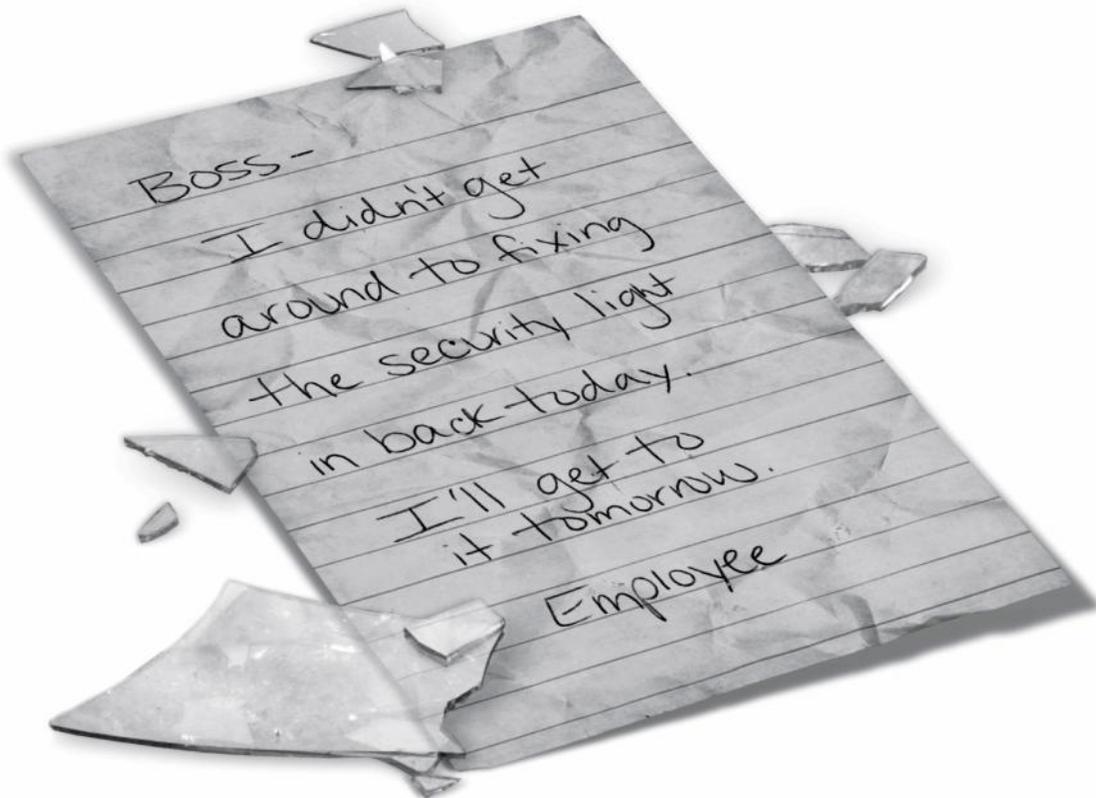
Meanwhile, the old woman, also radiant

with joy, returned to her home. Her son was stunned by the look of peace on her face and he asked, "Mother, what did you do today that made you so happy?"

She replied, "I ate potato chips in the park with God." However, before her son responded, she added, "You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives for a reason, a season or a lifetime. Embrace all equally! Have lunch with God.....bring chips.





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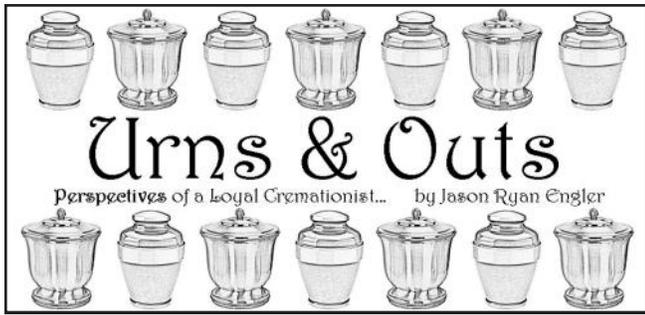
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In my research, I have found that of the documented examples of cremation in ancient times, the cremation of the companion of the Greek hero Achilles is one of the most notable. As a prince, Achilles took a young outcast named Patroclus as his squire – and the two quickly became best friends.

During the Trojan war, the two were dispatched to Troy to defend the honor of Helen, and both would later be killed in battle. During battle, Achilles became frustrated with the lack of respect he was receiving from his peers, so he refused to fight. His fellow Grecians became forlorn and, without the physical aid and moral support of their hero, the war was decidedly going to be lost to Troy. To renew the spirit of the Grecian Army, Patroclus volunteered to disguise himself as Achilles to chase the Trojans from the Greek camp, and thus encourage the Grecian soldiers to fight. Patroclus became overzealous and was killed by the spear of Hector, the great general of the Trojan army.

Achilles was enraged and stricken with grief. He mourned for 12 days the death of his beloved partner and refused to allow his body to be buried or cremated – until Patroclus visited him in a dream – begging him to dispose of his body by fire so that his spirit could be freed and he could enter the underworld.

Achilles assented immediately and Homer gives us this description of the cremation pyre in his Iliad:

*“The Myrmidons stayed and built up huge piles of wood and made a pyre, a hundred feet on each side. With grief in their hearts they placed the body of their friend upon it. In front of the pyre, they slaughtered, skinned and dressed many plump sheep and lumbering bulls. And Achilles took the fat from them all and covered Patroclus head to foot and heaped the bodies around him. He then put some jars of honey and oil leaning against the funeral bed, and slaughtered four horses and threw them onto the pyre. Patroclus had nine pet dogs that he fed at his table, and Achilles took two of them, killed them, and threw their bodies onto the pyre. And with revenge in his heart, Achilles ordered his men to bring the dozen young Trojan [prisoners], and after he killed them one after the other, he threw them onto the pyre. To this he applied the purifying fire and lit the wood so that the flames would spread and consume it all.”*

Later, Achilles charges the Myrmidons to gather the remains of Patroclus and place them in a golden, two handled urn given by Achilles’ mother, the sea goddess Thetis. Achilles also tells his comrades to place his remains into the same urn upon his death – honoring Patroclus’ wish that they may be one in death as they were in life. He further instructs that a large mound, or tumulus be built to honor his friend.

Cremation and the subsequent memorial were most important to ancient Greeks – they believed that their soul could not be released from their body unless their body was cremated. They also believed that their soul could not be at rest until a permanent memorial had been erected.

This example sets the stage for many of the remembrances we offer our families today. Going to rest where our ancestors, family, companions are at rest affords us a peaceful passage, and allows a remembrance for those who will someday follow.

At least, that’s my perspective...

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Jason Ryan Engler is a funeral director and cremation historian in Northwest Arkansas. He is the unofficial historian for the Cremation Association of North America and is a frequent contributor of cremation information to trade journals and organizations.

Read his blog at <http://urnsandouts.blogspot.com>.  
He can be reached at [cremationhistorian@hotmail.com](mailto:cremationhistorian@hotmail.com).

## A Parent Dies By Ken Doka

*"I suppose there will be a lot of widows in the group," Gail speculated. "I know everyone loses parents. I know she was just a mother," she contritely stated.*

As I was interviewing potential clients for a grief support group, Gail's comment struck me as strange. *Just a mother?* This was the woman who brought her into the world, raised her, and even as an adult was her best friend, companion, frequent babysitter, and an always available source of support.

I understood her confusion. We expect to outlive our parents. The death of a parent is a normal event in adult life. It is something most of us experience.

Yet, all those truths do not make it any easier. The death of a parent is difficult for so many reasons.

The loss of a parent often is our first, significant experience of death—and our first encounter with grief. We may be stunned by the intensity of our reactions, by the roller-coaster nature of the grief process, and by the very many ways that grief affects us. Even though we may have expected to experience these emotions, we may be shocked at their intensity. Also, we may not have fully realized all the other reactions of grief: the difficulty concentrating, the physical experiences, the spiritual questions, and even the ways that grief changes our behaviors. We may even be surprised by how long these reactions seem to last.

The loss of a parent may affect us in other ways as well. When one parent dies

we may be thrust into new responsibilities—caring for the surviving parent, for example. The death of a parent creates a "developmental push," as we may have to learn new skills where, even as an adult, we depended upon a parent.

The loss of a parent or parents can lead to other changes as well, compounding feelings of loss. We may have to close our childhood home. Without the centering role of a parent, holidays and family gatherings may be held in new places with varying family members. It may seem like the larger family just doesn't get together like it once did.

There may be psychological changes as well. As long as our parents are alive, we feel protected. Now we may feel more alone. One of my clients, an older, very successful woman, once shared that as long as her parents were alive she felt that even if everything went sour, she could always go home. Now she confessed, she felt strangely vulnerable. We may even become more aware of our own mortality, adding to that sense of vulnerability.

It is difficult when a parent dies. We need not be ashamed of our grief. We readily would acknowledge the effect of a parent's death on a twelve-year-old child. Why do we somehow think it would be easier if that child were now fifty-two years old?

We need to develop our strengths—to learn how to cope with loss. What has helped us in the past? How does our faith

speaking to us? What support is available—from friends or family, within our faith community, hospice service, or community? What rituals can we develop that can help us remember and honor our parents at appropriate times? What skills do we need to learn? What memories will we hold and share? What are the legacies that our parents have imparted to us that are now part of our lives?

If this is our first loss, we can hone our ability to live with loss. That can be a final gift from our parents.



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This article was originally printed in *Journeys: A Newsletter to Help in Bereavement*, published by Hospice Foundation of America. More information about *Journeys* can be found at [www.hospicefoundation.org](http://www.hospicefoundation.org) or by calling 800-854-3402 and is published monthly by the Hospice Foundation of America, 1621 Connecticut Ave., NW, #300, Washington, DC 20009. Annual subscription—\$12.00.

Kenneth J. Doka, Ph.D., is a Professor of Gerontology at the College of New Rochelle. Dr. Doka's books include: **Disenfranchised Grief; Living with Life Threatening Illness; Living with Grief: After Sudden Loss; Death and Spirituality; Living With Grief: When Illness is Prolonged; Living with Grief: Who We Are, How We Grieve; AIDS, Fear & Society; Aging and Developmental Disabilities; and Children Mourning, Mourning Children.** In addition to these books, he has published over 60 articles and chapters. Dr. Doka is the associate editor of the journal **Omega** and editor of *Journeys*, a newsletter of the bereaved. Dr. Doka has served as a consultant to medical, nursing, hospice organizations, as well as businesses, educational and social service agencies. As Senior Consultant to the Hospice Foundation of America, he assists in planning, and participates in their annual Teleconference. In 1998, the Association for Death Education and Counseling honored him by presenting him an Award for Outstanding Contributions to the field of death education. In March 1993, he was elected President of the Association for Death Education and Counseling. Dr. Doka was elected in 1995 to the Board of the International Work Group on Dying, Death and Bereavement and elected Chair in 1997. Dr. Doka is an ordained Lutheran Clergyman. *(And a heck of a nice guy—Editor & Publisher)*

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# Chuckles

*Editor Note: My apologies if anyone has been offended by jokes in this column*

Perhaps you've heard this short story before...but it is a good one! A newlywed couple moved to an apartment in a very busy neighborhood. On the first morning in their new home, after she had made coffee, the young bride looked through the window and watched her neighbor hanging sheets out to dry. "What dirty sheets!" she thought to herself. "Maybe she needs to buy a different kind of detergent. I should go and teach her how to wash them properly." Every few days, she muttered the same thing to her husband with disdain while watching her neighbor hanging out the dirty laundry in the early morning light. A month passed, and one day the young wife was surprised to see that her neighbor was hanging out perfectly clean sheets. She exclaimed to her husband, "Look! She finally learned to wash her clothes. I wonder who taught her how." The husband replied, "Well, in reality, darling, the only difference is that I got up early this morning and cleaned the window."



\*\*\*\*\*

A senior citizen drove his brand new Corvette convertible out of the dealership. Taking off down the road, he floored it to 80 mph, enjoying the wind blowing through what little gray hair he had left. "Amazing," he thought as he flew down I-94, pushing the pedal even more. Looking in his rearview mirror, he saw a state trooper behind him, lights flashing and siren blaring. He floored it to 100 mph, then 110, then 120. Suddenly he thought, "What am I doing? I'm too old for this," and pulled over to await the trooper's arrival. Pulling in behind him, the trooper walked up to the Corvette, looked at his watch, and said, "Sir, my shift ends in 30 minutes. Today is Friday. If you can give me a reason for speeding that I've never heard before, I'll let you go." The old gentleman paused. The he said, "Years ago, my wife ran off with a State Trooper. I thought you were bringing her back." "Have a good day, sir," replied the trooper.



\*\*\*\*\*

## Punography

(thanks to Larry Moore)

- ◆ I tried to catch some fog. I mist.
- ◆ When chemists die, they barium.
- ◆ Jokes about German sausage are the wurst.
- ◆ A soldier who survived mustard gas and pepper spray is now a seasoned veteran.
- ◆ I know a guy who's addicted to brake fluid. He says he can stop any time.
- ◆ How does Moses make his tea? Hebrews it.
- ◆ I stayed up all night to see where the sun went. Then it dawned on me.
- ◆ The girl said she recognized me from the vegetarian club, but I'd never met herbivore.

- ◆ I'm reading a book about anti-gravity. I can't put it down.
- ◆ I did a theatrical performance about puns. It was a play on words.
- ◆ They told me I had type A blood, but it was a type-O.
- ◆ I didn't like my beard at first. Then it grew on me.
- ◆ A cross-eyed teacher lost her job because she couldn't control her pupils?
- ◆ When you get a bladder infection, urine trouble.
- ◆ What does a clock do when it's hungry? It goes back four seconds.
- ◆ I wondered why the ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me!
- ◆ Broken pencils are pointless.
- ◆ What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus.
- ◆ England has no kidney bank, but it does have a Liverpool.
- ◆ I used to be a banker, but then I lost interest.
- ◆ I dropped out of communism class because of lousy Marx.
- ◆ All the toilets in London police stations have been stolen. Police say they have nothing to go on.
- ◆ I took the job at a bakery because I kneaded dough.
- ◆ Velcro—what a rip off!
- ◆ Cartoonist found dead in home. Details are sketchy.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Seniors Texting Code:

- ◆ **ATD:** At the Doctors
- ◆ **BFF:** Best Friend Fell
- ◆ **BTW:** Bring the Wheelchair
- ◆ **BYOT:** Bring Your Own Teeth
- ◆ **FWIW:** Forgot Where I Was
- ◆ **GGPBL:** Gotta Go Pacemaker Battery Low
- ◆ **GHA:** Got Heartburn Again
- ◆ **IMHO:** Is My Hearing-Aid On
- ◆ **LMDO:** Laughing My Dentures Out
- ◆ **OMMR:** On My Massage Recliner
- ◆ **OMSG:** Oh My! Sorry, Gas
- ◆ **ROFLACGU:** Rolling On Floor Laughing And I Can't Get Up
- ◆ **TTYL:** Talk To You Louder.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LA Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries Advisory



Alligator Alert: The Louisiana State Department of Fish and Wildlife is advising hikers, hunters, fisherman and golfers to take extra precautions and keep alert for alligators while in St. Tammany, Jefferson and Orleans Parishes. They advise people to wear noise-producing devices such as "little bells" on their clothing to alert but not startle the alligators unexpectedly. They also advise the carrying of "pepper spray" in case of a 'gator encounter. It's also a good idea to watch for fresh signs of alligator activity and be able to recognize the difference between young alligator and adult alligator droppings. Young alligator droppings are small, contain fish bones and possibly bird feathers. Adult alligator droppings have little bells in them and smell like pepper.

(Continued on page 11)

## Chuckles (Cont.)

When you have an "I hate my job" day try this. On your way home from work, stop at your pharmacy and go to the thermometer section. You will need to purchase a rectal thermometer made by "Q-tip." Be very sure that you get this brand. When you get home, lock your doors, draw the drapes, and disconnect the phone so you will not be disturbed during your therapy. Change to very comfortable clothing, such as a sweat suit and lie down on your bed. Open the package and remove the thermometer. Carefully place it on the bedside table so that it will not become chipped or broken. Take out the written material that accompanies the thermometer and read it. You will notice that in small print there is a statement: "Every rectal thermometer made by Q-tip is personally tested." Now, close your eyes and repeat out loud five times, I am so glad I do not work in quality control at the Q-tip Company."



Clarence was due to inherit a fortune when his sickly father died, so he decided that he needed a woman to help him enjoy his new found wealth. So he went to a singles bar where he spotted a woman whose beauty took his breath away. "I'm just an ordinary man," he said to her, "but in just a week or two, my father will die and I'll inherit 20 million dollars." the woman went home with him and the next day became his stepmother.



At one time in my life, I thought I had a handle on the meaning of the word "service." The act of doing things for other people. Then I heard the terms: Internal Revenue Service, Postal Service, Telephone Service, Civil Service, City/County Public Service, Customer Service, and Service Stations. And I became confused about the word "service." This is not what I thought "service" meant. Then today, I overheard two farmers talking and one of them mentioned that he was having a bull over to "service" a few of his cows. SHAZAM! It all came into perspective. Now I understand what all those "service" agencies are doing to us.



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### Men Strike Back!!!

- ◆ How many men does it take to open a beer? - None. It should be opened when she brings it.
- ◆ Why is a Laundromat a really bad place to pick up a woman? Because a woman who can't even afford a washing machine will probably never be able to support you.
- ◆ Why do woman have smaller feet than men? It's one of those "evolutionary things" that allows them to stand closer to the kitchen sink.
- ◆ How do you know when a woman is about to say something smart? When she starts a sentence with "A man once told me..."
- ◆ How do you fix a woman's watch? You don't. There is a clock on the oven.
- ◆ Why do men fart more than women? Because women can't shut up long enough to build up the required pressure.
- ◆ If your dog is barking at the back door and your wife is yelling at the front door, who do you let in first? The dog, of course. He'll shut up once you let him in.
- ◆ What's worse than a Male Chauvinist Pig? A woman who won't do what's she told.
- ◆ I married a Miss Right. I just didn't know her first name was Always.
- ◆ Scientists have discovered a food that diminishes a woman's sex drive by 90%. It's called Wedding Cake.
- ◆ Why do men die before their wives? They want to.
- ◆ Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
- ◆ In the beginning, God created the earth and rested. Then God created Man and rested. Then God created Woman. Since then, neither God nor Man has rested.

*(Editor note: Hope you men appreciated a few chuckles but I'm not sure about sharing any of this with the women in your life.)*



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**FOR SALE:** Rural Oklahoma family-owned funeral home for sale. Please send serious inquiries to: Business Purchase Request, 5830 NW Expressway, Box 175, Oklahoma City, OK 73132 or contact [molly.helm@wymerbrownlee.co](mailto:molly.helm@wymerbrownlee.co)

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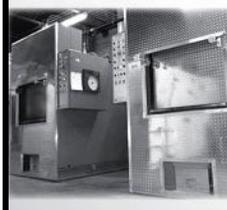
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**“Dear Counselor....” By Bill Stalter**

Dear Counselor,

*We need to qualify my husband’s mother for Medicare, and she is the owner of an insurance policy. We’ve been told that the policy will have to be put into an irrevocable trust even if we transfer it to a funeral home. Can the funeral home put the policy in its preneed trust?*

Do not be upset or surprised if the funeral home is unable to help you with the use of their preneed trust. The terms of a preneed trust will be dictated by the bank or trust company, and they typically have investment policies that preclude insurance. Most state preneed laws also impose the Prudent Investor Rule, which requires the diversification of investments. Life insurance trusts are a special type of trust that are designed to avoid these rules. State preneed laws will probably preclude the trustee from creating exceptions from the Prudent Investor Rule so that they can hold insurance. Another problem is that the insurance proceeds would be taxable to the trust. When you exchange the policy for a contract with the funeral home, the transfer for value rule applies to the policy, and the proceeds are no longer taxed pursuant to Section 101 of the tax code. Trustees do not want the additional work of determining how much of those proceeds are taxable. Trustees also prepare regulatory reports, and the insurance policy requires additional or special reporting. If the policy pays proceeds in excess of your mother-in-law’s funeral bill, the trustee may be required to refund the excess to the state. This represents additional work for the trustee. While your funeral director may want to accommodate your needs to exclude the policy from asset testing, his trustee will likely say no.

We need some questions for the “Dear Counselor....” column. Please send your questions to Bill’s e-mail or The Dead Beat’s and we will get some answers in future issues. Email: [wastal@swbell.net](mailto:wastal@swbell.net) or [bill@stalterlegal.com](mailto:bill@stalterlegal.com) or [editor@thedeat-beat.com](mailto:editor@thedeat-beat.com)  
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Bill Stalter answers our questions for educational purposes only. It is *The Dead Beat’s* intent to give the reader general information about legal issues, not to provide legal advice. If a reader needs legal advice, he or she should hire an attorney. Reading *The Dead Beat* should not be used as a substitute for legal advice from an attorney. When Bill provides legal advice he does so for Stalter Legal Services in Overland Park, Kansas. Bill also provides consulting services through Preneed Resource Consultants, which can be found at [www.prenneedresource.com](http://www.prenneedresource.com).

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# Death Notices of Fellow Funeral Service Colleagues

## ARIZONA



**Richard Encinas "Rick" Villelas**, 51, of Tucson passed away June 21, 2013. He was a funeral director for South Lawn Mortuary and Carrillo's Tucson Mortuary for more than 30 years. His arrangements were under the direction of Carrillo's Tucson Mortuary.

## KANSAS



**Leo John Petrik**, 98, of Topeka, KS died November 4, 2013. He was a retired funeral director and embalmer. He worked in a funeral home in Blackwell, Oklahoma before attending Williams Institute of Embalming in Kansas City, graduating in 1939. He had worked at a funeral home in Wichita before moving to Topeka, worked at Eslinger Funeral Home as a funeral director and embalmer and then in 1942 joined Parker Mortuary where he worked until 1998. He had been honored by the Kansas Funeral Directors Association and was a member of Golden Rule.

His services were directed by Penwell-Gabel Parker-Price Chapel



**Michelle J. (Webb) Self**, 62, of formerly of Clearwater, KS, passed away November 10, 2013 in Blackwell, OK. She worked over 20 years at Webb Mortuary as a funeral director. Her services were handled by Webb-Shinkle Mortuary in Clearwater, OK.

## MISSOURI



**Sharon A. Akerson**, 66, of St. Louis, passed away January 30, 2014. Brian and Sharon were the owners of John L. Ziegenhein & Sons Funeral Homes from 1995-2005. Brian has been a funeral director and embalmer in the St. Louis area since 1971. Services were under the direction of John L. Ziegenhein & Sons (South County).



**Alan Carney**, 74, of Macon, passed away Nov. 11, 2013. He was the owner and operator of Carney Funeral Chapel in Macon, Bevier and Callao for many years.. Funeral services were under the direction of Greening-Eagan-Hayes Funeral Home in Macon.



**Mary Therese (Sheil) Carroll**, 83, died December 28, 2013. She was a licensed Funeral Director in the State of Missouri and was best known for "running the show behind the scenes". Mary Therese Carroll was a founding member of the Sheffield Neighborhood Association. She served as President of the State of Missouri Federation of Women's Democratic Clubs & past President of the 5th Congressional District of Democratic Women. of Cario, IL. Her services were arranged by McGilley & Sheil Chapel, Kansas City, MO.



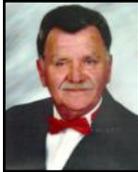
**Paul Everett Hays**, 90, of St. Louis, formerly of Shelbina, passed away on January 20, 2014. He enlisted in the Army in October of 1942, at the age of 19 and served in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He be-

## MISSOURI (Cont.)

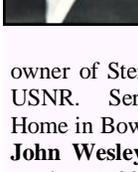
longed to the 5th Air Force 22nd Bomb Group engaged in combat in the South Pacific Theater. Paul served as a member of the B-24 bomber crew as radio operator and a ball turret gunner (it was located under the plane and he said he had the best view). He was awarded 5 Bronze Stars, a Good Conduct Medal, and an Air Medal with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters. Paul graduated from the College of Mortuary Science in St. Louis, MO, on June 12, 1946, and then joined his father, Everett and his brother Jack in Shelbina in the family business, Hayes Funeral Home, which Elmer Hopper and his father Everett had founded in 1915. After his brother Jack passed away in 1983, he joined with Pete Greening and Ralph Eagan and the firm became known as the Greening-Eagan-Hayes Funeral Home. He worked as a funeral director until his retirement in 1996. His services were directed by Greening-Eagan-Hayes Funeral Home.



**Nichole Lickliger**, 25, of Rolla, passed away January 6, 2014. October 14, 2013. She is the daughter of Roger Lickliger, former MFDEA Board Member and the 10th District Director for several years. All arrangements were under the direction of Null & Son Funeral Home of Rolla.



**Edward James "Jimmy" Mahn, Jr.**, 65, of DeSoto passed away January 6, 2014. He is related to Todd Mahn, Mahn Funeral Homes. He was a retired co-owner of Mahn Towing. Services were handled by Mahn Funeral Home, DeSoto, MO.



**David Sterne**, 73, of Louisiana, passed away on November 27, 2013. He was the former owner of Sterne Funeral Home He served his country in the USNR. Services were handled by Mudd-Veach Funeral Home in Bowling Green.

**John Wesley Whitaker**, 89, of High Ridge, passed away on December 6, 2013. He was the father of Calvin Whitaker, St. Louis Livery Service. Arrangements were under the direction of Dashner-Strauss Funeral Home.

## OKLAHOMA



**Keith L. Schroeder**, 84 of Chandler, passed away on September 11, 2013. He was the owner and operator of Curry Funeral Home for more than 20 years. He has been a licensed funeral director and embalmer since 1964. He was a veteran of the Korean War. His services were directed by Parks Brothers Funeral Chapel - Chandler.

**If you know of a fellow funeral service colleague that has died that we have not included, please send the information and picture if available (The Dead Beat, P.O. Box 145, Golden City, MO 64748) or fax it to us (417-537-4797) or E-Mail to Joanne@thedead-beat.com**



## Scattering Cremains in a Natural Area



### Native Grasses and Flowers Reaching to the Sky

For those with a love for the natural landscape, arrangements have been made with the private owners of **Golden Prairie**, a registered natural landmark, to scatter cremains on their property. In addition to the arrangements, a picture and GPS location of the actual site is included.

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## TEXAS



**Elaine Atwood**, 77, of Mason, passed away Nov. 11, 2013. She was former co-owner of Mason Funeral Home with her husband Winfred. They bought the Mason Funeral Home in 1970 and operated it until 1999. Her services were under the direction of Mason Funeral Home.



**O.D. Boyd**, 75, of Lufkin, passed away January 8, 2014. He was the father of Keith Boyd, manager of Downs Funeral Home in Marshall, TX. His funeral arrangements were handled by Carroway Funeral Home in Lufkin.



**James Day "Budgie" Burke**, 78, of Madisonville, died September 24, 2013. He graduated from Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science. He began his lifelong career as funeral director at Sparkman Funeral Home Dallas. He returned to the family business of J.M. Day Funeral Home in Madisonville and after 42 years retired. He was a Spec 5 in the National Guard and served active duty from 1957 until the end of the Berlin Crisis. His services were directed by J. M. Day Funeral Home.



**William Henry "Bill" Dalton**, 73, of Lake Kiowa, formerly of Lewisville. He was a previous owner of Dalton and Son Funeral Home in Lewisville. Dalton and Son Funeral Home directed the funeral service.



**Jim Robert Dawson**, 81, of Austin, passed away on January 15, 2014. He was the husband of Joyce L. Dawson, TFDA's Director of Member and Regional Services. He served in the U. S. Navy during the Korean War, later in the Coast Guard and also in the Army and Marines reserves. He was an ordained Unity minister.

His services were directed by Harrell Funeral Home in Austin.



**Rev. William H. "Bill" Dean**, 92 of Bentonville, Arkansas died January 29, 2014. He is the father of Grand Prairie, Texas, who handled the funeral arrangements. Bill was a highly decorated WWII Army veteran who served his country bravely as an elite paratrooper.

He was involved in combat in France, Sicily, Italy, and Belgium. He was assigned to the 551st Battalion, known in history as "The Lost Battalion." The 551st has been acknowledged in many books and documentaries and was awarded a Presidential Unit Citation. The brave feats of the 551st were also documented in the award-winning book, "The Left Corner of My Heart." Bill was the last surviving member of the light machine gunners, later assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division. His commendations include the Bronze Star and 3 Purple Hearts.

Services were under the direction of Guerrero-Dean Funeral Home in Grand Prairie and Carroll-Lehr Funeral Home in Athens, Tx.

**Lee E. Drewelow**, 71, of Independence, Iowa, passed away December 12, 2013. He is the father of Bret Drewelow of Batesville Casket Company in Southlake, Texas. His services were handled by Jamison-Schmitz Funeral Home in Oelwein, IA.



**Mary Lou Duenkel**, 83 of Mt. Vernon, passed away on November 22, 2013. She was the mother of Terry Duenkel and widow of Charles A. Duenkel of Sam B. Harvey Funeral Home of Mt. Vernon, formerly of Pampa, TX. Services were handled by Sam B. Harvey Funeral Home.

**L.J. Falcon**, 89, of Port Arthur, died Sept. 22, 2013. He was a funeral director and embalmer for more than 40 years. His services were handled by Forest Park Lawndale Funeral Home.



**Max M. Jones**, 88, of Smithfield, died January 7, 2014. Max began his funeral career in San Antonio, relocated to Smithville in 1952 and has been serving this community with the special dedication and commitment essential to his profession for over 60 years. He was the oldest living past president of the Texas Funeral Directors Association. He also was a U. S. Navy Veteran. His service was directed by Marrs Jones Funeral Home in Smithville.

(Continued on page 17)

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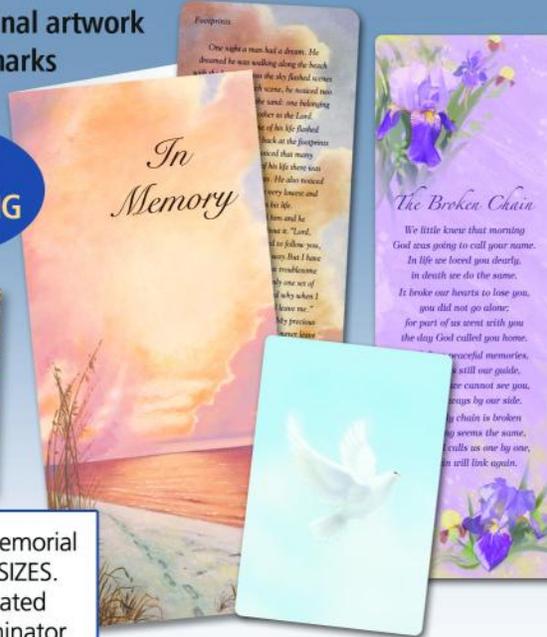
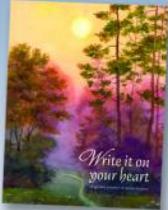
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## Death Notices of Fellow Funeral Service Colleagues (Cont.)

### TEXAS (Cont.)



(Continued from page 15)

**Lydia O. Longoria**, 94, of Dallas passed away on January 21, 2014. She is the Mother-in-law and mother of Lupe and Yolanda Garcia owners of Calvario Funeral Home Dallas, Calvary Memorial Funeral Home Dallas and Calvary Funeral Home in Irving. In Lydia's later years she worked along with her husband as receptionist at the Calvario Funeral Home which her daughter and son in law established in 1981 who handled her services.



**Charles W. "Charlie" Marshall**, 90, of Aransas Pass, passed away on January 10, 2014. He joined the [U.S. Navy](#) in 1942 and served on a troop carrier in the South Pacific during WW II. He graduated from Landig College of Mortuary Sciences in 1947 as Valedictorian. He came to Aransas Pass as a young mortician in 1949. He spent the next 64 years dedicated to the betterment of not only the city but also to the people who live here. Charlie was the owner and operator of Charlie Marshall Funeral Homes & Crematory, Inc. in Aransas Pass and Rockport. He was the past president of the Texas State Board of Morticians, having been appointed and served under four governors. He received a 50-year recognition from the Texas Funeral Directors Association in 1999. His services were directed by Charlie Marshall Funeral Home.



**Juan O. Santos**, 62, of Edinburg, passed away on January 15, 2014. He is the father of Juan "Johnny" Garcia, the managing partner of Ceballos-Diaz Funeral Home. His services were under the direction of Ceballos-Diaz Funeral Home in Edinburg.

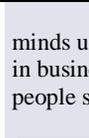
## Five-Finger Prayer (Unknown Source)



Your thumb is nearest to you. So begin your prayers by praying for those closest to you. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is, as C.S. Lewis once said, a "sweet duty."



The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, and ministers. They need support and wisdom in point others in the right direction. Keep them in your prayers.



The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our leaders. Pray for the president, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion.



They need God's guidance. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will testify. It should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble or in pain. They need our prayers day and night. You cannot pray too much for them.

And lastly comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all, which is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, "The least shall be the greatest among you." Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. By the time you have prayed for the other four groups, your own needs will be put into proper perspective and you will be able to pray for yourself more effectively.





**As We Drive By** We love to take pictures as we go by funeral homes and interesting places, but we'd welcome pictures, if you send them to us.



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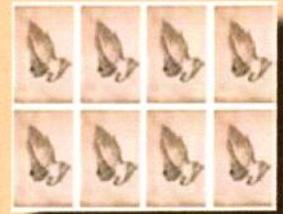
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### Perspective.... Unknown Author

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing his how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.



On their return trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered, " I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our



garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have. Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends!

Pass this information on to friends and acquaintances and help them refresh their perspective and appreciation."

"Life is too short and friends are too few...."



(Sent by Al Warden)

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### To Have and To Hold By Alston Caporimo

A husband and wife wouldn't let religion, custom or even burial come between them. After 42 years of marriage, in 1880 Lad van Aefferden buried her husband, Colonel J.W. C. van Gorcum, in the Protestant cemetery of Roermond, a small town in the Netherlands. Custom dictated that van Aefferden would be buried in the Catholic cemetery upon her death, eight years later.

To stay close to her spouse, she requested the burial plot next to her husband's grave, beside a brick wall separating the two cemeteries. Then she added interlaced stone hands to connect their tombstones so that they would embrace for eternity.

Today, the tombstones are called *het graf met de handjes*, which translates to "grave with the little hands."

Reader's Digest, Jan.,2014

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## How To Stay On The Good Side Of The Media

By Joe Weigel

Funeral directors who find themselves in the media spotlight tend to complain that they're being harassed, persecuted, or treated unfairly. All too often, those owners and managers receive that treatment because of their own actions in dealing with reporters and editors.

You can keep from becoming your own worst enemy by following a few simple common-sense strategies.

**\*\*Don't delay.** If a reporter leaves a message for you to call, don't be paralyzed by fear. Return the call promptly. Two reasons: first, the longer you delay that call, the more you'll stoke the reporter's suspicions. A matter that might be dismissed with a thirty-second conversation could now become much more complex. Second, if you don't return the call, you'll look like you're hiding something when the story airs or is printed. "We tried to reach Ms. Jones for an explanation, but she did not return our calls." You may be completely innocent, but the readers or viewers who don't know you will assume you're guilty.

**\*\*Tell the truth.** This sounds simple (and maybe even a little childish), but it's crucial. If you lie or try to deceive a reporter, you're setting yourself up for grief. Reporters will discover the truth, especially in this era of social media and extraordinary access to information. All it takes is one unhappy employee or frustrated customer to convince everyone that you're a liar. If you consistently tell the truth, you won't have to keep track of multiple mistruths.

**\*\*Think before you respond.** Sometimes, you won't have any warning. But in most situations, you'll have at least a few minutes to prepare. Think of what questions

the reporter will be likely to ask, and rehearse your answers. Choosing the right words and practicing them is not being deceptive, and the more comfortable you become with your words, the more truthful and candid you'll appear to be (especially on TV).

**\*\*Don't say "off the record."** We've all seen the movies and TV shows where an executive or politician delivers the party line, then winks at the reporter, says, "But off the record ..." and spills the real story. The reporter and the subject share a friendly laugh, and nobody ever learns the truth. It doesn't work that way in real life. You'll regret that "off the record" remark when it's the lead story on the 6:00 p.m. news or a big headline in the paper.

**\*\*Get help.** If you're in a really tough or tricky situation, don't try to handle it yourself. Engage the services of a PR professional immediately, and refer all media calls to that firm or individual. PR pros are accustomed to working with the media -- and reporters are accustomed to working with them.

One bonus step: work with the media before there's a problem. If you already have a cooperative relationship with the reporters and editors who have reason to cover your business, they're more likely to work with you when something negative occurs. Don't be afraid to share good news with them, and if they need information about something else, do what you can to help. Remember the Golden Rule, and treat them the way you would like to be treated.

*Joe Weigel is the owner of Weigel Strategic Marketing, a communications firm delivering expertise and results across three interrelated marketing disciplines: strategy, branding and communications. For more information, he can be reached at 317-260-8515 or [joseph.weigel@gmail.com](mailto:joseph.weigel@gmail.com).*

## If This Were All

By Edgar A. Guest (1881-1959)

If this were all of life we'll know, if this brief space of breath  
Were all there is to human toil, if death were really death,  
And never should the soul arise a finer world to see,  
How foolish would our struggles seem, how grim the earth  
would be!

If living were the whole of life, to end in seventy years,  
How pitiful its joys would seem! How idle all its tears!  
There'd be no faith to keep us true, no hope to keep us strong,  
And only fools would cherish dreams-no smile would last for  
long.

How purposeless the strife would be if there were nothing more,  
If there were not a plan to serve, an end to struggle for!  
No reason for a mortal's birth except to have him die-  
How silly all the goals would seem for which men bravely try.

There must be something after death; behind the toil of man  
There must exist a God divine who's working out a plan;  
And this brief journey that we know as life must really be  
The gateway to a finer world that someday we shall see.

*Mr. Guest was British by birth and American by choice, used simple words to express profound ideas.*

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Directors’ Choice is the premier provider of funeral answering services in North America, and the only answering service dedicated entirely to funeral professionals. Handling more than 80,000 first calls per year, it offers comfort and assistance to families and accurate, timely information to clients. It was founded by Gary Darychuk in Saint John, New Brunswick in 1997. Visit [dchoice.com](http://dchoice.com) for more information or call 888-920-1900.



## DIRECTORS' CHOICE'S “DC TO GO” IPHONE V2 RELEASED

**January 29, 2014** - Directors’ Choice CEO, Gary Darychuk is proud to announce the introduction of “DC to Go v2” the upgrade of their Mobile App for the iPhone. This comes on the third anniversary of the industry leading introduction of the iPhone application that allows funeral directors the ability to manage messages, recordings, staff and services all from their Smartphone. Version 1 of the app was the first of its kind and was released in 2010.

Always a technological leader, award winning, Directors’ Choice has previously announced mobile applications for the BlackBerry and Android. Each of these 2 other applications will follow suit

with an update with the same new features as the iPhone, within the year.

“While we are still a boutique shop in the answering service space” Darychuk says, “our highly skilled programmers continue to lead in providing technological tools that allow Funeral Directors to work more effectively”.

“DC to GO” is your one-stop portal for Directors’ Choice services”, continues Darychuk. “You can use your iPhone to check messages, listen to call recordings, contact our staff, and manage on-call and service information; all in real time, as it happens. You can

## Adult Facts To Consider

- ◆ Sometimes I'll look down at my watch three consecutive times and still not know what time it is.
- ◆ Nothing is worse than the moment during an argument when you realize you're wrong.
- ◆ I totally take back all those times I didn't want to nap when I was younger.
- ◆ There is a great need for a sarcasm font.
- ◆ How are you supposed to fold a fitted sheet?
- ◆ Was learning cursive really necessary?
- ◆ Obituaries would be a lot more interesting if they told you how the person died.
- ◆ I can't remember the last time I wasn't at least kind-of tired.
- ◆ Bad decisions make good stories.
- ◆ You never know when it will strike, but there comes a moment when you know that you just aren't going to do anything productive for the rest of the day.
- ◆ Can we all agree to ignore whatever comes after Blu-ray? I don't want to have to restart my collection.... Again.
- ◆ I'm always slightly terrified when I exit out of Word and it asks me if I want to save any changes to my ten-page technical report that I swear I did not make any changes to.
- ◆ I keep some people's phone numbers in my phone just so I know not to answer when they call.
- ◆ I think the freezer deserves a light as well.
- ◆ I disagree with Kay Jewelers. I would bet on any given Friday or Saturday night more kisses begin with Miller Light than Kay.
- ◆ I wish Google Maps had an "Avoid Ghetto" routing option.
- ◆ I have a hard time deciphering the fine line between boredom and hunger.
- ◆ How many times is it appropriate to say "What?" before you just nod and smile because you still didn't hear or understand a word they said?
- ◆ I love the sense of camaraderie when an entire line of cars team up to prevent a jerk from cutting in at the front. Stay strong brothers and sisters.
- ◆ Shirts get dirty. Underwear gets dirty. Pants? Pants never get dirty, and you can wear them forever.
- ◆ Even under ideal conditions people have trouble locating their car keys in a pocket, finding their cell phone and Pinning the Tail on the Donkey-but I'd bet everyone can find and push the snooze button from 3 feet away, in about 1.7 seconds, eyes closed, first time, every time.
- ◆ I was in a Starbucks Coffee recently when my stomach started to rumbling and I realized that I desperately needed to let gas. The place was packed but the music was really loud so to get relief and reduce embarrassment I time my gas releases to the beat of the music. After a couple of seconds I started to feel much better. I finished my coffee and noticed that everyone was staring at me. I suddenly remembered I was listening to my Ipod (with ear piece)...and how was your day. This is what happens when old people start using technology.

## Some Interesting Facts about A Mesolithic Cemetery in Ireland

A reader sent some interesting information about certain archaeological finds in Ireland that were discussed on a blog. It was in Irish Archaeological Sites, March 16, 2013.

"On a bend of the River Shannon, Ireland's largest water-course, a small band of hunter-gathers came together nearly 9,500 years ago, to bury one of their own. At what is now know as Hermitage, Co. Limerick, they placed the remains of a man upon a large funerary pyre. It was then lit and afterwards the cremated bone was carefully gathered together and placed in a small pit, marked by a wooden post. Over the following years two more burials were added to this small cemetery and thus Ireland's oldest-know graveyard was founded.

The earliest burial at the site was located within a sub-circular pit that measured 0.60m in diameter by 0.30m deep (*Collins T. & Coyne F. (2003) 'Fire and Water...Early Mesolithic Cremations at Castleconnell, Co. Limerick', in Archaeology Ireland, Vol. 17, No. 2 (Summer2003), Wordwell, pp. 24-27*). The pit also contained evidence for a wooden post, approximately 0.20m in diameter that may have represent a grave marker or some form of totem pole. The cremated remains had been carefully placed at the base of the pit in a crescent shape around the wooden post. They consisted of 1979g of burnt bone and represented the remains of an adult individual, possibly a male. The bone was efficiently cremated demonstrating that the people performing the rite were familiar with the procedure.

A large stone axe was found in association with the burial remains, along with a number of flint and chert artifacts. The axe had evidence for burning, suggesting that it had also been placed on the funerary pyre. Radiocarbon analysis of a bone fragment from the cremation returned an Early Mesolithic date of 7530-7320 BC (*Collins & Coyne 2006 'As Old as We Felt....' Archaeology Ireland, Vol. 20, No. 4 (Winter 2006), Wordwell, p. 21*), confirming that this was the oldest burial thus far identified in Ireland.

The location of two more burials was given with later dates but still in the Mesolithic time frame. The location of these burials on the banks of the River Shannon is not surprising, as most of the country's Mesolithic sites have been identified in close proximity to water. This was probably because riverine and coastal locations gave access to the widest range of wild foods and also because in such a heavily wooded country, waterways would have allowed the quickest and easiest means of transport, via dug-out canoes.

The three cremations at Hermitage are extremely significant and represent an import addition to the very small corpus of Mesolithic burials from Ireland. Not alone are they the oldest burials form the country but they also demonstrate that our earliest hunter-gather ancestors practiced a relatively sophisticated means of disposing of their dead."

# Did They Really Read Their Signs???

**Did I read that sign right?**

TOILET OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW.

**In a Laundromat:**

AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT

**In a London department store:**

BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS

**In an office:**

WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN

**In an office:**

AFTER TEA BREAK STAFF SHOULD EMPTY THE TEAPOT AND STAND UPSIDE DOWN ON THE DRAINING BOARD

**Outside a second hand shop:**

WE EXCHANGE ANYTHING - BICYCLES, WASHING MACHINES, ETC. WHY NOT BRING YOUR WIFE ALONG AND GET A WONDERFUL BARGAIN?

**Notice in health food shop window:**

CLOSED DUE TO ILLNESS

**Spotted in a safari park:(I sure hope so)**

ELEPHANTS PLEASE STAY IN YOUR CAR

**Seen during a conference:**

FOR ANYONE WHO HAS CHILDREN AND DOESN'T KNOW IT, THERE IS A DAY CARE ON THE 1ST FLOOR

**Notice in a farmer's field:**

THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

**Message on a leaflet:**

IF YOU CANNOT READ, THIS LEAFLET WILL TELL YOU HOW TO GET LESSONS

**On a repair shop door:**

WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)

**Proofreading is a dying art, wouldn't you say?**

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter  
This one I caught in the SGV Tribune the other day and called the Editorial Room and asked who wrote this. It took two or three readings before the editor realized that what he was reading was impossible!!! They put in a correction the next day.

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says  
*Really? Ya think?*

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers  
*Now that's taking things a bit far!*

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over  
*What a guy!*

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Miners Refuse to Work after Death  
*Good-for-nothing' lazy so-and-so's!*

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant  
*See if that works any better than a fair trial!*

War Dims Hope for Peace  
*I can see where it might have that effect!*

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile  
*Ya think?!*

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures  
*Who would have thought?!*

Enfield ( London ) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide  
*They may be onto something!*

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges  
*You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?*

Man Struck By Lightning Faces Battery Charge  
*He probably IS the battery charge!*

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group  
*Weren't they fat enough?!*

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft  
*That's what he gets for eating those beans!*

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks  
Do they taste like chicken?  
\*\*\*\*\*

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half  
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\*\*\*\*\*

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors  
*Boy, are they tall!*  
\*\*\*\*\*

And the winner is....  
Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead  
*Did I read that right?*

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### The Positive Side of Life

- ◆ Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year. 
- ◆ How long a minute is depends on what side of the bathroom door you're on.
  - ◆ Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.
  - ◆ Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.
- ◆ Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?
- ◆ Most of us go to our grave with our music still inside of us. 
- ◆ If Wal-mart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?
- ◆ You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
- ◆ Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
- ◆ Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.
  - ◆ We could learn a lot from crayons; some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors...but they all exist very nicely in the same box.
- ◆ A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

### Announcing.... Yarber Mortuary New location and Open House in Willow Springs, Missouri.

Yarber Mortuary is happy to announce the opening of their new added location in Willow Springs, Missouri. They officially received their licensing on January 24 and are now open for business at 814 E. Main Street in Willow Springs along with their current facility in Mountain View. They had an open house and dedication on Saturday, February 1, 2014 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the new location.

Yarber Mortuary is proud to have served the families in Howell and Shannon counties as a family-owned and operated funeral home since 1996.

*"We have been blessed and humbled by the support we have received from the community. We are committed to relieve the burden on your family during your time of loss in a compassionate manner. We will take the time needed to plan every detail to celebrate the life of your loved one."*

*We have grown up in your communities and you see us at your church, school, local sporting and community events. Being our friends, you know that you can call us at any time."*

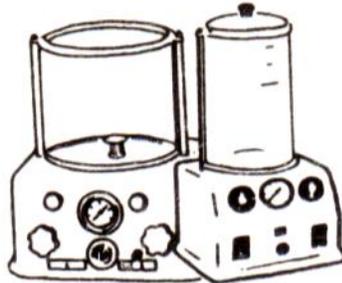


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## Batesville Names Bob Sheridan as New E-Commerce Product Manager

BATESVILLE, IN., January 14, 2014 – Batesville, the leading provider of comprehensive solutions to the death care industry, announced the addition of Bob Sheridan as E-Commerce Product Manager at the company's headquarters in Batesville, IN. In this new role, Bob will be managing and leading Batesville's consumer-facing technology products and business lines, including its sympathy flower, gift and card offerings, video tributes, print on-demand offerings, plus online obituaries and media.



As the most trusted technology provider in the death care industry, Batesville is focused on providing its customers with easy-to-use solutions that leverage the latest technology to help grow their business and enhance relationships with families.

"Today's consumers are relying more on internet technology to connect to businesses and with each other," said Mike Bryan, General Manager of Batesville Technology Solutions. "Bob has a well-rounded background and great experience in marketing, technology, e-commerce and operations that will allow him to make an immediate, positive impact on our customers and our team."

"I am excited to join such a well-respected company that is not only invested heavily in technological innovation, but uniquely focused on meeting the needs of our customers and the families they serve," said Bob Sheridan.

Sheridan spent 17 years in a variety of marketing, IT, and production management positions with Herff Jones. He was involved in the development and launch of numerous e-commerce initiatives and helped create new income streams through the roll-out of digital products into traditional markets.

A Florida native, Bob received a BBA in Marketing from Saint Joseph's College and earned his MBA from Indiana University. He and his wife and three children reside in Zionsville, IN.

For more information on Batesville's complete portfolio of innovative technology solutions, visit [www.batesvilletechnology.com](http://www.batesvilletechnology.com).



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### ABOUT BATESVILLE

Batesville ([www.Batesville.com](http://www.Batesville.com)), a wholly owned subsidiary of Hillenbrand, Inc. (NYSE:HI), is the leader in the North American death care industry. For more than 125 years, Batesville has been dedicated to helping families honor the lives of those they love®. Batesville's innovation has changed the face of funeral service, from advancements in manufacturing and quality to patented features and memorialization offerings, technology and web-based solutions, and profit-enhancing merchandising systems and room displays. Our history of manufacturing excellence, product innovation, superior customer service and reliable delivery has helped Batesville become – and remain – a market leader.

### FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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## Honorable Memories (Cont.)

(Continued from page 1)

The urns are handcrafted from Wilsonart Solid Surface Material; these half-inch thick, acrylic-based surface products are solid, nonporous and do not require sealing. They're naturally resistant to heat, mold, mildew, and most stains, even though stains are easily buffed away. They're renewable and repairable—scratches are easily repaired,



featuring inconspicuous, waterproof seams ideal for custom designs on the urns and plaques. Plus, Wilsonart Solid Surface has also received UL GREENGUARD Gold Certification, ensuring that it won't contribute to harmful indoor air quality.

The urns are available in two colors, white and gray, replicating the white marble and gray granite customarily found in veterans cemeteries throughout the country. The urns display very well in glass front columbarium's as noted in photo below, they serve two purposes, the urn as well as a marker/headstone. As many private cemeteries provide "sections set aside for veterans," and rightfully so, sections or a group of niches can be set aside for veterans.

The Millers believe that they are poised to provide unique, custom-crafted items that will truly honor the memory of beloved friends and family. The urns are built in the Millers' shop and then placed in inventory. As orders are received; the urns are pulled from inventory, then personalized with a CNC router as requested by the family.



Honorable Memories LLC is a family-owned and run business located in Bismarck, North Dakota that has been in business for nearly two years and has experienced steady growth in sales.

For their products and prices, you can contact the manufacturer's representative in The Dead Beat area, John Poff at 417-358-5075 or 303-250-0900 or visit their website at [www.honorablememories.com](http://www.honorablememories.com), or phone 701-751-3975, or e-mail [honorable.memories@gmail.com](mailto:honorable.memories@gmail.com).

**As We Drive By** We love to take pictures as we go by funeral homes and interesting places, but we'd welcome pictures, if you send them to us.



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