

The Dead Beat



The Caregiver's Soapbox

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



Volume 15

www.thedead-beat.com

Issue 2

Ulmer Funeral Home Celebrates A Century of Service (1916-2016)

A vital Carthage, Missouri institution since 1916, the Ulmer Funeral home was established by John T. Ulmer. He came to Carthage from Illinois and purchased the Gierhart Undertaking Company at Fourth and Lyon streets. His sons, Ed C. Ulmer, Sr. and Harry Ulmer became associated with him in the management of the business.

In November of 1920 Ed C. Ulmer married Grace F. Wilbur and the couple purchased the business. For a brief time Charles Drake was a partner. During that period the firm was known as the Ulmer-Drake Funeral Home.

Known as the first residential funeral services in the district, the company maintained its quarters at 502 W. Macon Street. In 1928, the firm purchased the historic residential structure which had been erected by the Johns family at 1208 S. Garrison Ave., from Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Rinehart. In subsequent years the structure was home to the internationally noted musician Emma Johns DeArmond. The building was remodeled and expanded.

After the death of his father, Ed C. Ulmer, Jr. guided the family business from 1951 until his death in 1977. In May of 1978, Arthur A. Bruce and his wife Mary Ann purchased the firm. Before moving to Carthage, Mr. Bruce and his wife owned funeral homes in Lamar and Poplar Bluff.

In 1985, the firm purchased a large lot adjoining the funeral home property which was landscaped and blacktopped, giving the funeral home one full block frontage on Macon street. In the spring of 1986, a new chapel was added to the original structure. The chapel holds at least 176. A large family room can comfortably seat at least 65 family members and also allows the family the family private parking entrance and seating. The chapel is ground level access. The building has held over 500 in attendance.

With the long hours and demanding pressures slowly taking their toll, in 1989, Arthur Bruce made the decision to seek an associate. He was determined not to sell to a large corporation but to someone who had a real interest in Carthage and the surrounding areas. It was important for the new owners to live in and be a part of the Carthage community.

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Amy Howard Art Gallery



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.



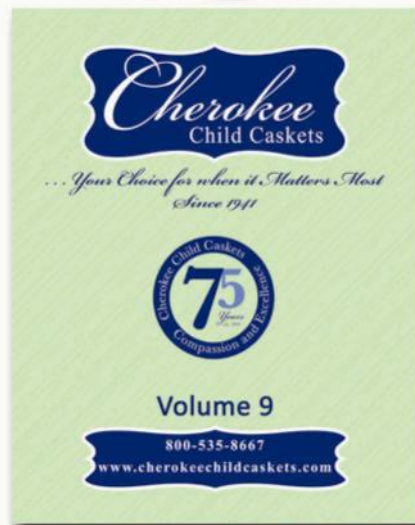
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- ◆ I wish you enough gain to satisfy your wanting.
- ◆ I wish you enough loss to appreciate all that you possess.
- ◆ I wish enough "Hello's" to get you through the final "Good-bye..."



Mortuary Muse By Lowell

A New Code of Ethics

Recently a Code of Ethics was received with our state association certificate. At the bottom of the page was a signature line for the FDIC to sign.

I suppose you are to frame it and hang it on a wall where slow moving visitors in line can read it and be assured your funeral home is an ethically operated firm.

The line of visitors will have to move pretty slow in order to read the whole thing which may be shorter than the Declaration of Independence. I don't know who drafted it— perhaps a committee of interns. I suspect that an English teacher would have dinged them on overuse of the words ethics and ethical.

Over the last 112 years there must have been two or three codes of ethics or rules of business conduct hanging on our walls. They may still be there since I can't read them on the wall.

Almost every religion, cult or service club must have their version of the "Golden Rule" so there are plenty of examples from which to choose.

I think that over the years both the practioners and the public's view of ethical standards change. Many client issues are often a matter of miscommunication and practioner breeches often caused by spur of the moment financial difficulties or paperwork shortcuts or errors. Also there is the occasional incident when the client has the intent to stiff the funeral director.

If we must have a code of ethics on the wall, compose or plagiarize a short and to-the-point creed to express your integrity. An example comes to mind. "We pledge to do no harm." Any creed, of course, is meaningless if the practioners heart is not filled with honesty or honest values.

Until someone invents a phone app to detect the unethical heart, we may always wonder, "What evil lurks in the hearts of men— The Shadow knows." (tag line from an old time radio melodrama).

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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John Mitchell Named Service Director at U.S. Cremation Equipment



U.S. Cremation Equipment has announced that John Mitchell has accepted the position of service director. Mitchell has worked in the cremation industry since 2002. He joined U.S. Cremation Equipment in 2013 and moved into his new position in January.

Mitchell says his passion is providing customers with quick and efficient customer service, and that has been one of his focuses at U.S. Cremation Equipment.

"Service lag is prevalent in the industry. A typical crematory may have to wait up to 4 months for service. This is unacceptable. U.S. Cremation Equipment has allowed me to manage the Service Department in such a way that we can provide service and repairs within a 30 day average turnaround time," Mitchell said.

Mitchell said he has also implemented an annual evaluation and maintenance program that offers clients a full-day onsite service visit. The visits include a full inspection, precise tune-up, refractory evaluation and operator refresher training.

"We all know that even the most careful planning can fail to deliver the expected results. Yet, at U.S.C.E. I have the freedom to do whatever is necessary to remedy any unforeseen situation," Mitchell said. "Under my watch, an unhappy customer is never an option. Again and again, when we do whatever it takes to make the client happy, we find that it always results in great word of mouth, great referrals, and of course more happy customers."

Mitchell can be reached at jmitchell@uscremationequipment.com or by calling US Cremation Equipment at 321-282-7357.

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ICCFA Educational Foundation Receives \$100,000 From Batesville and Matthews

NEW ORLEANS, LA (April 26, 2016)—The Educational Foundation of the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association received commitments of \$50,000 each from Batesville Casket Company and Matthews International during the ICCFA 2016 Convention & Exposition in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The leaders of both companies signed checks on stage during the Educational Foundation's presentation on Thursday, April 14, and said that their organizations support the foundation's sole objective of making education accessible to the future leaders of our profession.

"Batesville is very proud to support the ICCFA Educational Foundation in providing scholarships and opportunities for a new generation of funeral professionals," said Chris Trainor, President/CEO of Batesville. "Batesville's donation is a reflection of our ongoing partnership and commitment to creating a more positive future for our industry."



Steve Gackebach, Group President for Matthews Memorialization, agreed that they are proud to support the foundation's mission.

"Our donation underscores Matthews' deep commitment to the memorialization industry and to our goal of helping our customers grow their businesses," Gackebach said.

Additionally, the ICCFA Educational Foundation announced that it selected 20 industry professionals to receive scholarships to attend ICCFA University, July 22-27 at the University of Memphis in Memphis, Tennessee. They included:

- Marie Anderson, Afp Horizon, Carrollton, TX, made possible by Live Oak Bank
- Kyle Butler, Green Hills Memorial Park, Ranchos Palos Verdes, CA, made possible by Matthews
- David J. Boyle, Town of Chemsford Cemetery, Chemsford, MA, made possible by Memorial Classic Golf Tournament
- David Brooks, St. Joseph's Cemetery & Morris Funeral Cottage, Cheraw, SC, made possible by the Gino Merendino Veterans Scholarship Fund
- Rachel Dwyer, Allen Dave Funeral Home & Heritage Funeral Home, Harker Heights, TX, made possible by Cypress Lawn/Kenneth Edward Varner Memorial Scholarship



(Continued on page 27)



Behind the Back Fence

By Lowell

Now is the Family Convention and Vacation time. Yep, it's been convention time and a lot of convention planning has gone into events for kids and wives (What about events for husbands of funeral director wives?).

The kids are often a joy to visit with as they take in the activities, but is that really the kind of family vacation the kids deserve?

Over the years a number of funeral directors have commented that they never took a real family vacation, though they might make a hunting or fishing trip to Canada or some place while leaving the wife and kids to look after the business. The convention/vacation might be a tax write-off, but is it really fair? There may not be enough mom and pop funeral homes left anymore that this issue matters.

Restaurant Chatter

Second Amendment rights discussion pop up every time a politician thinks it will help his case. I am a gun owner and I hunted until I decided that I could not create anything as beautiful as the critters I might be shooting. However I do not believe it is even possible to have a Civil discussion

with these folks about ways to reduce senseless gun violence.

One thing is clear the most outspoken people are never around to help the undertaker wipe the blood off the wall and bag the unfortunate victims.

For years it was, "Oh, just put me in a pine box and bury me without all that foolishness," usually spoken by a guy at an adjoining table. Nowadays it may be just "cremate me" and no instructions about a final cremains repository or service. Considering that there are rules in most states and funeral firms that authorize a firm to dispose of unclaimed cremains, there are still thousands on shelves or storage lockers. Should there be a fee for storage and/or deposit built into each cremation purchase contract?

With elections coming up there will be a number of funeral directors running for coroner in some small rural counties. Often a funeral director might be the most qualified person available. I think, however, that if there is medical or law enforce-

ment trained people available funeral directors should avoid the job of coroner (so there is no problem of who gets the body in coroner cases.)

Reading **The Dead Beat** can be like attending a mini-convention. There are plenty of good business management ideas from our regularly featured Columnists Joe Wiegel, Bill Stalter and Richard Lee. Their columns are brief, but timely. Grief and mourning issues from Dr. Ken Doka reflect his many years of study and counseling. Joanne's Afterthoughts written from her personal experiences has always evoked the most responses from our loyal readers. Jason Engler's cremation articles reflect that growing trend. We have had many great embalming technical features from Brian Simmons and he is always willing to offer advice on complex embalming and transportation issues.

In fact look at all of our loyal merchandise equipment and supply advertisers for products and services. It is like walking through the exhibit hall. New to this group is CFS Consolidated Funeral Services. They will help you through the digital landscape.

Two more reasons **The Dead Beat** is the one they are reading. We receive more funeral director death notices and each issue has more chuckles than you will get in the convention hotel bar.

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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

After-Thoughts *By Joanne Howard*

As I was walking the dog, I had an interesting encounter with nature. It was early in the morning and foggy, yet you could see the sunshine in the distance shining through the fog. You could make out a gray shape that looked like a muted rainbow.

Having never seen anything like that before, it started me thinking. It was like the fog was the grief after we lose a loved one, but that shadowed rainbow is the hope of joy will return to it's bright colors after the fog of grief starts to fade over time.

I know you are thinking I am losing it completely, but... having experienced grief in the past for numerous losses, I know about the fog when the loss happens and after it slowly subsides, you do have some joy. The sunshine in your life returns and the possibility of a colorful rainbow does exist.

Some of the colorful rainbows I have experienced after my fog has lessened, is remembering my lost loved ones. Whether I'm seeing pictures, hearing songs or seeing old e-mails that say, "I love you very much," I am grateful for those moments or rainbows.

Maybe the gray rainbows are the times when you hurt remembering your loved ones. The times when the tears flow and the "why" questions cross your mind.

The sunshine of your life is muted by the fog of grief that makes the gray image.

Sometimes these gray times are related to special days. We have just had Mother's Day and are approaching Father's Day. I was reading an article about the challenges with special days or holidays and grief. It suggested different ways of dealing with the feelings on these days. Trust me, though some the feelings lessen over time, until your mind completely goes, you are going to have some sad feelings on those special days.

In relation to Mother's and Father's day for those who have lost children, the day is bittersweet. You are glad that you have had your children, but you really do miss them. You miss the possibilities that they would have added to your life. It's also weird how people feel bad for you, but you would just appreciate no special attention.

It's also hard when you have the double whammy—no children and no parents, but you do have memories and hopefully they are wonderful to keep you going until you meet them again.

So back to the whole rainbow concept, may you have bright colorful rainbows in your life after the thick fog of



grief subsides. May you also have sunshine in your lives as you create rainbows of joyful memories of your loved ones.

Let me wish all—



Happy Mother's Day,

Happy Memorial Day,



Happy Father's Day



And Happy Life and
Memories for
Every Day!!!



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

The Trying Days— by Elizabeth S. Wadlow

Sometimes life doesn't seem fair.
We try to live as God leads us
Without glitter and flashy flair,
But no matter the way we turn
Life gives us a push and a burn.
To make us suffer and cry,
For the happy days gone by.
God loaned to you your dear ones
Only for awhile,
So remember each gift from them,
And blessed little smile.
Hold your memories close

And remember each tiny touch,
You'll feel the warmth within
That comes from those loved so much.
Talk to them, smile a lot,
Sing with joy and love.
Walk among God's trees and flowers
And the sunshine high above.
Hold God's hand as you walk with Him,
Singing His songs of praise.
He'll hear you and He'll sing along,
Leading you through the trying days.



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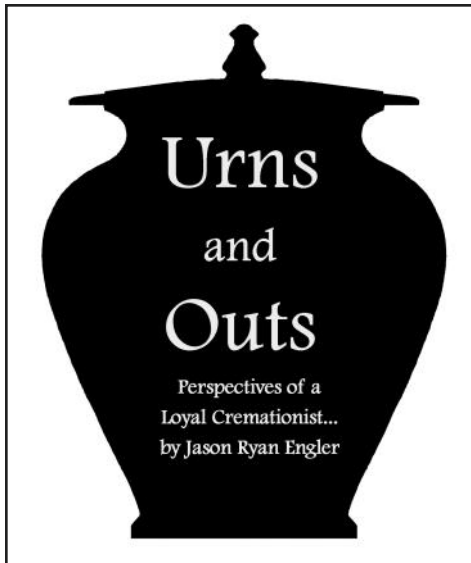
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From years of experience, I have found that personal wishes are one of the most common discussions I have when friends and family discover that I am a funeral and cremation professional. Recently during a conversation with a friend (who happens to be younger than I), the inevitable

conversation came up.

"I don't want anyone to be sad when I die. Just take my ashes and scatter them to the wind and throw a huge party."

I sat looking at him in honest surprise. I couldn't even begin to fathom the depth of the conversation that could have occurred in that moment, but the sheer overwhelming moment of argument passed gently through me. After all, everyone is entitled to their own ideas, their own wishes. I've heard the comment, but unfortunately it is more and more common.

Wouldn't it be nice to never be sad when someone dies; plodding along through life unfazed by the loss of a friend or relative or coworker or other member of society? Make it a tidy affair with no muss and no fuss. Make the body disappear and the grief will along with it. Right? It really isn't that easy.

While death is often met with grace and dignity by the dying, it is usually met with grief and sadness by the survivors. This is still so after thousands upon thousands of years of people dying, and recognizing that death brings sadness. It isn't an emotion that we choose... it just is. The

strange truth, however, is that sadness is normal. This unwanted, undesired, unappreciated, emotion is a natural part of the human psyche and an important part of the grieving process.

Unfortunately for the modern cremation movement, there are many in younger generations who think that cremation is an "out" for their impending sadness. It is erroneous to think that if we make the body disappear then the grief and sadness disappears along with the physical aspect of the body.

Renaming funeral and memorial services to "celebrations of life" is a wonderful idea, and the healing that comes through a positive celebration is immeasurable. Equally, an intentional outlook on the reality of death is healthy. Preparing one's self and one's loved ones for the inevitable is undeniably helpful and important for everyone who lives. We cannot say that there will be no sadness, and asking someone to not be sad at one of the most difficult times of loss is selfish and, quite frankly, impossible.

Barbara Kemmis, executive director of the Cremation Association of North America wrote a really great piece that has appeared in several places over time – and her candor regarding the prearrangements of her parents is very enlightening. Her dad, who says "just cremate me," is not aware of the desire by his loved ones to have a meaningful gathering of his friends, colleagues, and loved ones. She says my point so eloquently, "I love you, Dad, and I will mourn you and I will cry when you die. I need to be surrounded by family and your friends and former students... I want to respect your wishes, but I will mark your passing. I love you too much not to."

I love you too much not to.

Love is the foundation of so many human emotions. When a heart loves, a heart grieves when it is broken. Saying goodbye gives us the opportunity for healing and moving. I love too much to not be sad when I am parted from friends and family. Face the sadness and let healing begin.

That's my perspective...

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Jason Ryan Engler is a funeral director and "The Cremation Historian" who serves as the official historian for the Cremation Association of North America. He is Secretary/Treasurer of the Northwest Arkansas Funeral Directors Association and serves as an officer on the board of the Arkansas Funeral Directors Association. He is a frequent contributor to deathcare publications and often speaks about cremation and its history to funeral, cemetery and cremation trade associations.

He resides in Northwest Arkansas with his miniature dachshund, Otto.

Check his blog at <http://urnsandouts.blogspot.com>

He can be reached at cremationhistorian@hotmail.com

Keeping Connected

By Ken Doka

A number of years ago, a cell phone company ran a series of ads extolling the value of "keeping connected." It is important to remember that even as we journey with grief, we keep connected. One of the myths of grief is that we should slowly detach from the person we loved to get some form of closure and move on without lives.

Nothing can be further from the truth.

Grief is not about letting go—grief is about finding ways to continue the connection even as we live a different, not changed life.

Understanding that is important. Sometimes we hold on to the pain of grief believing that, if we lose the pain, we will lose the connection. We may believe that the end of grief is the end of memory and the ceasing of any sense of connection.

We live, or journey, with our grief. One of the first signs we are doing better is when we can laugh at memories and remembrances now too painful to recall.

Even if we wished to, we could not sever the connection. We are tied in too many ways to the person we loved. They still live in our memories—memories that are constantly evoked as we live our life. Every time I go to the airport I get my shoes shined, it reminds me of a Sunday morning ritual. Before church every Sunday, my dad and I used to go to a shoe shine stand. It was a very special

father-son time, remembered each time I sit for a shine.

There are always the legacies the person left. For Lydia, it is a special grin that her young son Keith has—one that resembles his dad's.

Moreover, the people we love are part of us, inevitably part of our own biography. Glenda laughs at this, noting, "I am so much my mother's daughter." Our parents, our siblings, our spouses, have left an indelible mark on who we are.

We may have more unusual moments when we feel that connection. For some it is in dreams. One young boy told me that while his grandma died, she was still alive in his dreams. For others, it may be an experience where they feel someone's presence or even an occurrence where they seem to smell, hear, see, or feel the touch of someone who died. For Maria, the sight of butterflies is a visible connection to her sister. "they seem to come at moments when I need or miss her the most." Still others may find the sense of someone they love in the comments of others. All of these experiences reaffirm a sense of connection.

Finally, our spirituality offers a sense of connection. To my young granddaughter her maternal grandmother is now "grandma in heaven." Others may see the person living on in memory or perhaps in a different form. We find connection in our beliefs.

These connections sustain us, even as we struggle with living life without

the person we love. That is difficult enough. We need not burden ourselves with the thought that we now have to forget what was, and is, such an important connection.

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 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

A Sparky ("Electrician Royalty of all Trades") dies in a car accident on his 40th birthday and finds himself at the Pearly Gates. A brass band is playing, the angels are singing a beautiful hymn, there is a huge crowd cheering and shouting his name and absolutely everyone wants to shake his hand. Just when he thinks things can't possibly get any better, Saint Peter himself runs over, apologizes for not greeting him personally at the Pearly Gates, shakes his hand and says, "Congratulations son, we've been waiting a long time for you." Totally confused and a little embarrassed, the Sparky sheepishly looks at Saint Peter and says, "Saint Peter, I tried to lead a God-fearing life, I loved my family, I tried to obey the 10 Commandments, but congratulations for what? I honestly don't remember doing anything really special when I was alive. Is it because I'm a Sparky the Royalty of all Trades?" "Congratulations for what?" says Saint Peter, totally amazed at the man's modesty. "We're celebrating the fact that you lived to be 160 years old! God himself wants to see you!" The Sparky is awestruck and can only look at Saint Peter with his mouth wide open. When he regains his power of speech, he looks up at Saint Peter and says, "Saint Peter, I lived my life in the eternal hope that when I died I would be judged by God and be found to be worthy, but I only lived to be forty." "That's simply impossible son," says Saint Peter, "We've added up your time sheets."



The phone rings. "Hello, Senor Rod? This is Ernesto, the caretaker at your country house." "Ah, yes, Ernesto. What can I do for you: Is there a problem?" "Um, I am just calling to advise you, Senor Rod, that your parrot— he is dead." "My parrot? Dead? The one that won the International competition?" "Si, Senor, that's the one." "D###! That's a pity! I spent a small fortune on that bird. What did he die from?" "From eating the rotten meat, Senor Rod." "Rotten meat? Who the h### fed him rotten meat?" "Nobody, Senor. He ate the meat of the dead horse." "Dead horse? What dead horse?" "The thoroughbred, Senor Rod." "My prize thoroughbred is dead? "Yes, Senor Rod, he died from all that work pulling the water cart." "Are you insane??" "What water cart?" "The one we used to put out the fire, Senor." "Good Lord!! What fire are you talking about, man???" "The one that destroyed your house, Senor! A candle fell and the curtains caught on fire." "What the h###?? Are you saying that my mansion is destroyed because of a candle?!!" "Yes, Senor Rod." "But there's electricity at the house!! What was the candle



Comments

Joanne—"Excellent column" (in Volume 15 Issue 1) - Karen, St. Peters, MO

Joanne—Via answering service message- " They get the Dead Beat there and wanted to let you know you've inspired a lot of people there...." Randy-Arkansas Central Mortuary.

Feel free to share comments and thoughts to the editor at editor@thedead-beat.com or mail to The Dead Beat, PO Box 145, Golden City, MO 64748.

for?" "For the funeral, Senor Rod." "WHAT BLOODY FUNERAL?!!!" "Your wife's, Senor Rod. She showed up very late one night and I thought she was a thief, so I hit her with your new Taylor-made Super Quad 460 golf club." SILENCE.....LONG SILENCE..... "Ernesto, if you broke that golf club, you're in deep trouble!!!"

A kindergarten teacher was walking around class, observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. She notice little Lena working particularly diligently so the teacher asked what her drawing was. Little Lena replied proudly, "I'm drawin' God." The teacher paused, then said, "But no one knows what God looks like." Without looking up from her drawing, Lena replied confidently, "They vill in a minute!"



Ole's son Sven came home one day from school and said, "Papa, I have da biggest feet in da third grade. Is dat becoss I'm Norwegian?" "No," said Ole, "It's because you're nineteen!"



Seven Indications You Are in America

1. A pizza can get to your house faster than an ambulance.
2. There are handicap parking places in front of a skating rink.
3. Sick people must walk to the back of the drugstore to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes in the front.
4. Banks leave both vault doors open, but pens are chained to the counters.
5. Expensive cars sit in the driveways and useless junk fills garages.
6. People use voice mail to screen calls and call waiting to catch every call they might miss.
7. Drive-Up ATM machines feature Braille lettering.

(Continued on page 11)

Chuckles (Cont.)



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- ◆ **Golden Retriever:** The sun is shining, the day is young, we've got our whole lives ahead of us and you're inside worrying about a stupid burned out bulb?
- ◆ **Border Collie:** The Border Collie realized the bulb wasn't the problem, and is in the basement re-setting the breaker.
- ◆ **Dachshund:** You know I can't reach that stupid lamp!
- ◆ **Lab:** "Oh, me, me!!!!!! Pleeeeeze let me change the light bulb! Can I? Can I? Huh? Huh? Can I?"
- ◆ **Poodle:** I'll just blow in the Border Collie's ear and he'll do it. By the time he finishes rewiring the house, my nails will be dry.
- ◆ **Cocker Spaniel:** Why change it? I can still pee on the carpet in the dark.
- ◆ **Boxer:** Who cares? I can still play with my squeaky toys in the dark.
- ◆ **Pointer:** I see it, there it is, there it is, right there.
- ◆ **Hound Dog:** ZZZZZZZZZZZzzzzzzzzz
- ◆ **Cat:** Dogs do not change light bulbs. People change light bulbs. So the question is: How long will it be before I can expect light?

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Death Notices of Fellow Funeral Service Colleagues



ARIZONA



Richard "Rich" Riley, 89, of Phoenix died January 10, 2016. He was a funeral director for 40 years. His arrangements were under the direction of Hansen Mortuaries, Phoenix.



Martha Valenzuela, 85, of Guadalupe died January 28, 2016. She was the mother of Angel Flores. Resthaven/Carr-Tenney Mortuary and Memorial Gardens in Phoenix handled her services.



JoAnn Wallace, of Mesa, died April 1, 2016. She is the wife of Mike Wallace. Her services were handled by Mariposa Gardens Memorial Park and Funeral Care in Mesa.

KANSAS



Roger Lee Coltrin, 77, of Dallas, TX, formerly of Paola, passed away April 19, 2016. He attended mortuary school in Dallas and returned to his native state where he worked to build a respected funeral business, in partnership with Larry Todd of Louisburg and Leo McRae of LaCygne. Services were under the direction of Penwell-Gabel Funeral Homes.



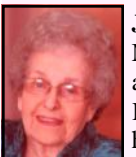
Roy Leon Derfelt, 93, of Galena, passed away April 6, 2016. He served in U. S. Army Air Corp during World War II. He was in combat on small island in the Pacific and witnessed the surrender of the Japanese on that air strip. He went to the Kansas City School of Mortuary Science in Kansas City, KS. In 1951 he joined his father as a funeral director at Derfelt Funeral Home, Galena. He eventually became sole owner and in 1977 purchased a funeral home in Baxter Springs, KS. He served on the Kansas State Board of Mortuary Arts for several years. His services were under the direction Derfelt's Funeral Homes.



Alleyne Mae Elliott, 95, of Anthony, died Feb. 19, 2016. She was the wife of Vernon Elliott, who owned Elliot Mortuary in Anthony and other homes in Harper, Attica and Caldwell to form the Elliott Funeral Homes. They joined Vernon's father in the fifty's and took ownership in 1961 and sold their interest in 2007 to retire. Ebersole Mortuary in Conway Springs directed her services.



Mary Elaine Butler Meyers, 89, of Kansas City, died March 5, 2016. She was owner and director of Mary Butler Meyers Funeral Home 1998 - 2016, Joseph A. Butler's Sons Funeral Home and Harry Butler & Son Funeral Home 1971-1984. Her services were directed by Mary Butler Meyers Funeral Home.



Jean Corrine Rhorer, 91, of Kinsley, passed away on March 25, 2016. Her husband, Wayne Gordon Rhorer, and her owned McKillip Memorial Funeral Home in Kinsley and she was an Assistant Funeral Director until her retirement in 1986. Her arrangements were under the direction of McKillip Memorial Chapel.

KANSAS (Cont.)



Robert Swaim, 87, of Dodge City, died February 28, 2016. He serviced in the United States Navy from August, 1946 to August, 1948 as an Electronic Technicians Mate 3rd Class. He was President of the Class of 1956 of San Francisco College of Mortuary Science. He returned to Dodge City in 1956 and joined his father as an owner of the Swaim funeral Home. He retired in 2000. He served as President of the Kansas Funeral Directors Association from 1987-88. His arrangements were under the direction of Swaim Funeral Home in Dodge City.

MISSOURI



Robert W. Atkinson, 86, of Harrisonville, passed away April 23, 2016. He was a 1950 graduate of Kansas City College of Mortuary Science. He joined the U.S. Air Force and served for two years. He entered the funeral business with his father. He purchased his Uncle Floyd Atkinson's interest in the business in 1953 and moved into Harrisonville funeral home. He was a funeral director and embalmer for over 40 years. He owned and operated the Atkinson Funeral Homes in Harrisonville, Archie, and Adrian. He was a past president of the Kansas City Funeral Directors Association. His services were under the direction of Atkinson Funeral Home, Harrisonville, MO.



Bruce A. Hadley, 55, of Windsor, died Dec. 21, 2015. He graduated from the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service in 1983. After an internship in St. Joseph, MO, he returned to Windsor working alongside his parents at the Hadley Funeral Home. Bruce and Sheila purchased the funeral home from his parents and they continued to serve the community of Windsor together until his death. In 2006, Bruce and Sheila partnered with Steve and Kim Bradley to establish the Bradley & Hadley Funeral Home in Clinton. The Hadley Funeral Home in Windsor directed his services.



C.W. "Bill" Wright, 78, of Brookfield, formerly of Chillicothe, died April 18, 2016. In 1960 he graduated from the Cincinnati College of Embalming and moved to Linneus and worked at Wright Funeral Home in Browing and Schoene-Wright Funeral Home in Milan from 1983-1996. In 1995 Wright Funeral Home and Hill Funeral Home merged and he was then co-owner of Wright-Baker-Hill Funeral Home. He was a 50-year member of the Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association and served as District Director for several years. The Wright-Baker-Hill Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

TEXAS



Stan Corbitt, 63, of Temple, passed away on April 3, 2016. He became a licensed funeral director and embalmer in 1973. He worked for Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in 1971 and Sheffield Funeral Home in 1980 and then worked for Connally-Compton Funeral Home in Waco for 1½ years. His services were under the direction of Scanio-Harper Funeral Home.



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TEXAS (Cont.)



Glen Goin, 70, of Lubbock, formerly of Abilene passed away April 17, 2016. He served more than 10 years in the U.S. Air Force before returning to college and graduating from Harding University with a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. Glenn got in the funeral industry as a Plant Manager and Vice President of Pierce

Chemicals in Dallas. In 1996 he worked for Elliott-Hamil Funeral Homes. After several regional management positions with Loewen Group and Alderwoods Group, he enrolled at Amarillo College receiving his funeral directors license in 2006. In 2010, Glenn joined Combest Family Funeral Homes as the funeral home manager. The Combest Family Funeral Home directed his arrangements.



Raymond L. Kurtz, Jr., 99, of Brackenville, passed away May 10, 2016. Ray was an U.S. Army Air Force veteran during World War II, stationed with the 422nd Service Squadron at Kelly Field in San Antonio, Texas. He is the father of Jim Kurtz, a board member of North Texas Funeral Directors Association and sales representative for SinoSource. His services were under the direction of Allen Family Funeral Options in Plano.



Chrissie Diane Morgan, 32, of San Angelo, passed away June 5, 2016. She is the daughter of Gary and Della Shaffer. Gary is a TFDA Past President and serves on the Texas Funeral Service Commission and owns Shaffer Funeral Home in San Angelo who handled the arrangements.



Francisco "Frank" Xavier Ruedas, 52, of Beaumont, passed away on Jan. 20, 2016. He graduated in 1988 from the Dallas Institute of Funeral Service. He worked with his family in El Paso as a licensed funeral director and embalmer before he joined Broussard's Mortuary as a funeral director. They handled his funeral services.



JB Weatherford, 81, Victoria, passed away on April 22, 2016. He was the husband of Dawn Weatherford, office manager at the Grace Funeral Home in Victoria. They also directed his funeral services.



Frank W. Wilson, 87, of Odessa, passed away on June 2, 2016. He attended Howard Payne College and North Texas State University, graduating with a BBA degree. He received his license as a funeral director following his studies at the Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science. He then served four years as a Staff Sergeant in the Intelligence Corps in the U.S. Airforce during the Korean Conflict. After his military service, he served as a funeral director in Dallas, Burkburnett, and Lubbock where he established Resthaven and Wilson Funeral Homes. He moved his family to Odessa in 1979, and established Frank W. Wilson Funeral Directors. He worked as a Funeral Director for over 70 years serving tirelessly over 10,000 families. He was a member of the Texas Funeral Directors Association where he served on the TFDA State Board. The Frank W. Wilson Funeral Home in Odessa handled his funeral service.

Terry Gene Woodall Sr., 72, of Carrollton, passed away on April 1, 2016. He was senior vice president of marketing for AFP Horizon. Mulkey-Mason Funeral Home in Lewisville directed his funeral services.



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 Editor@thedeat-beat.com



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5. Your children begin to look middle-aged.
6. You join a health club, and don't go.
7. Your mind makes contracts your body can't meet.
8. You know all the answers, but nobody asks you questions.
9. You look forward to a dull evening.
10. You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
11. Your knees buckle and your belt won't.
12. You stop looking forward to your next birthday.
13. Your back goes out more than you do.
14. Dialing long distance wears you out.
15. You turn out the light for economic reasons rather than romantic ones.
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- ♦ Doesn't have all his cornflakes in one box
- ♦ The wheel's spinning, but the hamster's dead
- ♦ One Fruit Loop shy of a full bowl
- ♦ One taco short of a combination plate
- ♦ A few feathers short of a whole duck
- ♦ All foam, no beer
- ♦ Body by Fisher, brains by Mattel
- ♦ Has I.Q. of 2, but it takes 3 to grunt
- ♦ Warning: Objects in mirror are dumber than they appear.
- ♦ Couldn't pour water out of a boot with instructions on the heel
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- ♦ Doesn't have all his dogs on one leash
- ♦ Doesn't know much, but leads the league in nostril hair
- ♦ Elevator doesn't go all the way to the top floor
- ♦ Forgot to pay his brain bill
- ♦ Her antenna doesn't pick up all the channels
- ♦ His belt doesn't go through all the hoops
- ♦ No grain in the silo
- ♦ Proof that evolution can go in reverse
- ♦ Receiver is off the hook
- ♦ Several nuts short of a full pouch

Being Followed

A young man was walking through a supermarket to pick up a few things when he noticed an old lady following him around. Thinking nothing of it, he ignored her and continued on. Finally he went to the checkout line, but she got in front of him. "Pardon me," she said, "I'm sorry if my staring at you has made you uncomfortable. It's just that you look just like my son, who just died recently." "I'm very sorry," replied the young man, "is there anything I can do for you?" "Yes," she said, "As I'm leaving can you say 'Goodbye, Mother!' It would make me feel so much better." "Sure," answered the young man. As the old woman was leaving, he called out, "Goodbye, Mother!" As he stepped up to the checkout counter, he saw that his total was \$127.50. "How can that be?" he asked, "I only purchased a few things!" "Your mother said that you would pay for her," said the clerk.

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An AARP Version of the "My Favorite Things" from "The Sound of Music"???

Not that any of us are getting "old" or anything, but here is a version of "My Favorite Things" with a few changes to fit with an AARP theme.

Maalox and nose drops and needles for knitting,
Walkers and handrails and new dental fittings,
Bundles of magazines tied up in sting,
These are a few of many favorite things.

Cadillacs, and cataracts and hearing aids and glasses,
Polident and Fixodent and false teeth in glasses,
Pacemakers, golf carts and porches with swings,
These are a few of my favorite things.

When the pipes leak,
When the bones creak,
When the knees go bad,
I simply remember my favorite things,
And then I don't feel so bad.

Hot tea and crumpets, and corn pads for bunions,
No spicy hot food or food cooked with onions,
Bathrobes and heat pads and hot meals they bring,
These are a few of my favorite things.

Back pain, confused brains, and no fear of sinning',
Thin bones and fractures and hair that is thinning',
And we won't mention our short shrunken frames,
When we remember our favorite things.

When the joints ache, when the hips break,
When the eyes grow dim,
Then I remember the great life I've had,
And then I don't feel so bad.

What is Your Purview?

By Rev. Janice

As a funeral minister, I don't take for granted the fact that I am the only person during a memorial service who is facing the family of the deceased. Everyone in attendance is facing the back of the heads of the family.

I consider it an honor to have this purview. I see first hand the love family members feel for their loved one. Whether it be children who weep for the uncle they will miss playing horsey, to the parents whose son passed much too soon, to the man who lived on the street. I have seen men, women and children crying as they realize this is really it! They will never see their loved one again. Their life is going to change but they are not sure what that will look like and can be scary—the fear of the unknown.

How has it changed me to witness family members at the height of their grief? First, I know that no matter who you are, no matter what your financial position, your status of employment, how little or many family members someone had, we

are all the same, human beings whose life mattered to this group of people. That this person was loved. That this person had a sense of humor, had hobbies, loved their family, had a favorite song and safe place. They may not have meant anything to us, but to these people, they were loved and will be missed.

We all want to be loved, to give and express love and to experience belonging. When we lose a loved one, we lose more than their presence, we lose the ability to express love to that person, to receive love from them. We experience a shift in how we belong and to what?

Redefining ourselves can be a challenge. It is also a gift to have a fresh opportunity to redefine who we are. How we want to show up in the world. Who we want to give our love to may change.

For those of us in the funeral business, we experience families in grief everyday. Being able to experience their love for their loved one through serving the families is the gift they so generously give to each

of us. My cup runneth over.

About the Author::



Ordained in 1999 as a non-denominational Christian Minister, **Reverend Janice Hoffman's** minis-

try has included facilitating A Course In Miracles, leading an Attitudinal Healing support group, and hosting a guided meditation for a group that met weekly for over 13 years. Rev. Hoffman's work with mortuaries and families began in 2008. After the first funeral service Rev. Janice officiated, she had a deep awareness that honoring the life of a family's loved one was where she wanted to focus her ministry. Beginning with meeting with the family for an intake, Janice writes a custom service bringing comfort to families in shock and grief. None of us are promised tomorrow and bringing that awareness to others, fosters appreciation for those in our lives and the time we spend with them.



My Quilt— Kathy Johnson

As I faced my Maker at the last judgment, I knelt before the Lord along with all the other souls. Before each of us laid our lives like the squares of a quilt in many piles. An Angel sat before each of us sewing our quilt squares together into a tapestry that is our life.

But as my angel took each piece of cloth off the pile, I noticed how ragged and empty each of my squares were. They were filled

with giant holes. Each square was labeled with a part of my life that had been difficult...the challenges and temptations I was faced with in everyday life. I saw hardships that I endured, which were the largest holes of all. I glanced around me. Nobody else had such squares. Other than a tiny hole here and there, the other tapestries were filled with rich color and the bright hues of worldly fortune. I

gazed upon my own life and was disheartened.

My angel was sewing the ragged pieces of cloth together, threadbare and empty, like binding air.

Finally the time came when each life was to be displayed...held up to the light, the scrutiny of truth!!! The others rose, each in turn, holding up their tapestries...So filled their lives had been. My angel looked

My Quilt (Cont.)

upon me...and nodded for ME to rise.

My gaze dropped to the ground in shame. I hadn't had all the earthly fortunes. I had love in my life...and laughter. But there had also been trials of illness, and death, and false accusations that took from me my world...as I knew it. I had to start over many times. I often struggled with the temptation to quit...only to somehow muster the strength to pick up and begin again. I spent many nights on my knees in prayer, asking for help and guidance in my life. I had often been held up to ridicule, which I endured painfully...each time offering it up to the Father in hopes that I would not melt within my skin beneath the judgmental gaze of those who unfairly judged me.

And now, I had to face the truth. My life was what it was, and I had to accept it for what it was.

I slowly lifted the combined squares of my life to the light. An awe-filled gasp filled the air. I gazed around at the others who stared at me with wide eyes.

Then I looked upon the tapestry before me. Light flooded the many holes...creating an image...the face of Christ. Then our Lord stood before me, with warmth and love in His eyes. He said, "Every time you gave over your life to Me...it became My life...My hardships...and My struggles. Each point of light in your life is when you stepped

Potential Serious Tax Consequences!

By Richard S. Lee

In the last few years, I have had several owners who were wanting or thinking about selling their funeral home business but decided against it, financially, because their tax liability would be too great. The reason for this was that they owned and operated their business as a C Corporation which created additional tax burdens upon a sale.

Why is this a problem? Simply put, when an owner of a C corporation goes to sell their business, they need to sell the stock of the corporation in order that they do not pay any additional built-in-gains taxes. The issue is that a buyer only wants to purchase the assets of the business and that is what their attorney will recommend as well. If you are a sole proprietorship, LLC or S corporation, then there are no issues. If you are a C corporation and are selling the assets, then essentially you will be double taxed because you will have to pay a 35% tax rate on the recapture of depreciation expense that has been taken and then sell the assets and pay the capital gains taxes due. The combination of the taxes being paid just add up to be too high to justify a sale in most cases.

What can I do as an owner? First you need to find out how you are organized as a business – are you a sole proprietorship, LLC, S Corporation or a C corporation. If you do not know,

call your accountant and ask them. If you are a C corporation, then you can elect to switch to operating as an S Corporation. Currently, the IRS requires that a 5 year period must pass after your Sub S election in order to avoid having to pay the additional 35% in built in gains taxes upon the sale of any assets.

If you don't know, call your accountant today and find out if you are a C Corporation. If you are, have them make the election to switch you to an S Corporation. You will be very happy that you did when it comes time to transfer or sell your business.



Richard S. Lee is the President of Lee & Associates, a firm that represents funeral home owners in the sale and transfer of their funeral business. Since 1987, they have been involved in over 160 transactions all over

the United States. The scope of their work also includes business valuations, accounting solutions and general consulting services. He also is President of Lee Funeral Funding, a company that provides financing to families for at-need funeral costs. **Richard is always available for questions and can be reached at 407-257-5024 or email him at Lee-bros@aol.com.**

aside...and let Me shine through, until there was more of Me than there was of you."

May all "Our Quilts" be threadbare and worn, allowing Christ to shine through.

Share this with someone you love...care about...or even someone who needs Jesus in their heart. May God bless you today...and Forever!!!

Three Questions Every Funeral Home Should Answer Regarding Its Marketing Program

By Joe Weigel

The landscape in funeral service is ever changing. Traditional marketing is still relevant, but technology plays an ever-increasing role in funeral home marketing and it can be hard to keep up with the increasing number of communication channels. But when you boil it all down, at the core of every successful marketing program is an in-depth examination of three key questions:

1. **What do our families want and need?**

Most funeral homes focus their marketing materials on talking about the history of the firm and unique features of their services. But marketing begins and ends with what families want. Take a minute and look at your marketing from their perspective. Are you really providing solutions to what they want and need?

2. **How are we different?** In today's competitive marketplace, it's not enough to be great. Funeral homes need to be different and unique. Many funeral homes make the mistake of trying to be everything to everyone. However, the formula for success for many funeral homes is to do one thing incredibly well. What one thing does your firm do well? Put that message into one sentence and communicate this competitive advantage in your market.

3. **What is our value?** When a funeral home provides value to its families, it increases loyalty, enhances the firm's reputation. Value is not a fixed commodity. Rather, it is what makes the family want to do business with you. Different families have varied perceptions of value. When you deliver the intangibles that your families find meaningful, you have derived the critical value that produces calls.

When funeral homes take the time to think about what they do, who they do it for and what they do differently, they are answering these three key questions that provide the foundation of a successful marketing program.



Joe Weigel is the owner of Weigel Strategic Marketing, a communications firm focused on the funeral profession that delivers expertise and results across three interrelated marketing disciplines: strategy, branding and communications.

For more information, you can visit his website at weigelstrategicmarketing.webs.com.

He also can be reached at 317-608-8914 or weigelstrategicmarketing@gmail.com.



Inspiration

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns;
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won if he'd stuck it out.
Stick to your task though the pace seems slow_
You may succeed with one more blow.

Success is failure inside out _
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt _
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar.
So stick to the fight when you are hardest hit_
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

Nashville, Tennessee Will Be the Home of the 2017 ICCFA Annual Convention

The International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association has announced the new location for the 2017 Annual Convention & Expo. The Convention is being relocated to Nashville, Tennessee, one of the top convention destinations in the nation and will be held at the Music City Center.

The new location also means new dates for the Annual Convention: April 5-8, 2017. The host hotels for the convention will be the Renaissance Nashville and the Omni Nashville, both within a half-mile of the Music City Center.

The ICCFA Convention offers general sessions, breakout sessions and multiple networking events. The three-day Expo is an opportunity to meet face-to-face with supplier representatives and see the latest products and services on the market. Visit www.iccfaconvention.com to see updates on the convention program, hotel information, and registration.

Do you have a proposal that you think would be helpful to others in the funeral, cremation and cemetery profession? ICCFA is looking for presentations for the 2017 Annual Convention & Expo. Proposals are due to ICCFA by July 5, 2016. For proposal guidelines and for more information, contact Kirsten Kase at kase@iccfa.com.

MORE -

Founded in 1887, the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association is the only international trade association representing all segments of the cemetery, cremation, funeral and memorialization industry. Its membership is composed of more than 9,100 rooftop locations and 20,000 professionals in the cemetery, funeral home and crematory industries, as well as supplier and related businesses worldwide.

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I asked God to grant me patience.

God said, "No. Patience is a byproduct of tribulations; it isn't granted, it is earned."

I asked God to give me happiness.

God said, "No, I give you blessings. Happiness is up to you."

I asked God to spare me pain.

God said, "No. Suffering draws you apart from worldly cares and brings you closer to me."

I asked God to make my spirit grow.

God said, "No, You must grow on your own, but I will prune you to make you fruitful."

I asked for all things that I might enjoy in life.

God said, "No. I will give you life so that you may enjoy all things."

I ask God to help me LOVE others, as much as God loves me.

God said..... "Ahhhh, finally you have the idea."

Stop telling God how big your storm is. Instead tell your storm how big your GOD is.



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The Dead Beat -The Caregivers Soapbox

Volume: **Fifteen** Issue : **Two**

Editor: **Joanne Howard**

Publisher: **Lowell Pugh and Joanne Howard**

The Dead Beat is published bi-monthly. Editorial and business offices are located at 400 Chestnut, Golden City, MO 64748. Phone (800) 575-2611

Subscriptions:

Additional copies for U.S.A. are \$24.00/ 1 year (6 issues).

For subscription, address changes, circulation, advertising assistance, write, phone or fax

The Dead Beat

P.O. 145, Golden City, MO 64748

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(Continued from page 4)

- Heather Felkel, Relyea Funeral Chapel, Boise, ID, made possible by NGL—National Guardian Life
- Pamela Girdy, Allen Dave Funeral Home, Houston, TX, made possible by Matthews
- Zachary Gordon, Eternal Hills Memorial Gardens, Klamath Falls, OR, made possible by Memorial Classic Golf Tournament
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- Lisa Vaeth, Association of Jewish Cemeteries, West Hartford, CT, made possible by the Next Generation Scholarship Fund
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More information on the ICCFA Educational Foundation may be found at www.iccfa.education.

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"Dear Counselor...."

By Bill Stalter

Dear Counselor,

I have begun selling cremation benches to our families, and one of our local cemeteries is threatening to remove the benches. I have been considering suing the cemetery for violating the families' rights in their grave spaces. What issues should I consider in whether to bring litigation?

Before pursuing litigation against the cemetery you will need to determine the nature of families' ownership interest in their grave spaces. There is a common misconception that the grave space owner possesses a fee simple estate in that plot. When we have a fee simple estate in a tract of land, we may do anything we wish with that land. However, most cemeteries stopped conveying fee simple ownership in grave spaces decades ago. Rather, cemeteries convey limited rights of interment. Ownership of the lot is also subject to the cemetery's rules and regulations. The restricted rights of the lot owner present a significant legal hurdle to funeral homes or monument builders who want to sell a cremation bench or niche for a lot intended for a traditional burial. Cemeteries often oppose the placement of a bench or niche in the center of a lot because of maintenance issues. You will need to have an attorney review the cemetery 'deeds' to determine what ownership rights have been given the families. Many cemeteries have discontinued the use of 'deeds', and instead use an assignment form that incorporates the cemetery's rules and regulations. If that is the case with your families, the cemetery is on strong legal grounds for controlling when and where cremation benches may be placed.

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



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.

Indigent Cremains Disposal

There was an interesting article in the **Springfield News Leader** newspaper on May 20, 2016 by Alissa Zhu. This was about a county decision about the indigent cremains disposal titled, "Ashes of Greene County's Unclaimed Dead to Be Scattered Annually."

The cremains have been stored at the Medical Examiner's office. Indigent people's final arrangements are handled by that office. An indigent is a person when no one is able or willing to take responsibility for the body.

The county has a new policy allowing \$400 for those people to be cremated. The minimal cost is given to the funeral establishment handling the cremation if that is done, but the cremains are returned to the medical examiner's office. They enacted this policy to help the county monitor the rising cremation prices and keep better track of the deceased.

The county is trying to get the cremains back to the families whenever they can and request the \$400 from those picking up cremains to replenish the county's costs.

An additional decision has now been to scatter the cremains annually with a notice in the local newspaper prior to the scatter date to be the first Thursday in May.

There is an "Alms House Cemetery" that has been a burial location for the poor and homeless. It is near the site of a former county poorhouse. This will be the modern resting place for the unclaimed cremains. The medical examiner is also looking to organize a small ceremony for the scattering.

It's an interesting policy with logical procedures. The question comes to mind how many other counties or states have something like this in place to keep the many boxes of cremains accumulating in funeral homes and crematories from the lack of claiming on the part of indigents.



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Funeral For Veteran with No Local Family

An Oklahoma City funeral home, OK Cremation and Funeral Home, offered to pay for the funeral of a veteran with no local family. The response to their generosity was overwhelming. The story was mentioned on a local news program and national organizations heard about it and the funeral home had calls from across the world.

Brent Jones, owner and funeral director expected a large crowd. He had many offers to pay for the service, but he turned them down. His funeral home donated the casket and service.

Uplifting to hear about the compassion that was shown by the funeral home and all the others that cared and offered to help.

Thank you Brent Jones and OK Cremation and Funeral Home.



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Ulmer Funeral Home— Century of Service (Cont.)

He was looking to the future with anticipation of retiring when, he approached Wayne Woodard, owner of Mason-



Woodard Mortuary in Joplin, MO. On May 1, 1990 Wayne and Dee Woodard purchased the firm with his daughter and son-in-law, Shane and Valenda Moore becoming the managers of the firm.

They moved to Carthage on May 1, 1990 with their brand new daughter Haley. In 1993 they had their son Levi and 1997 added their son Drew. Levi has graduated from Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science. They hope and pray that Levi will be their third generation of funeral directors carrying on their honored tradition in Carthage and the surrounding areas.



Grace Ulmer Hill passed away on April 27, 1998. Arthur Bruce passed away on May 12, 2008, Mary Ann Bruce passed away December 25, 2008 and Wayne Woodard battled colon cancer for 8 years and passed away on September 15, 2001.

They are thankful to Mrs. Ulmer for her stories, always being a lady, and encouraging two very young people and entrusting them with the business, to Mrs. Bruce for book work guidance, Mr. Bruce for jingling the change in his pocket with story after story, to Wayne for showing us long hours, hard work, how to find your way around McDonald County, putting God first, always going the extra mile and treating people the way you

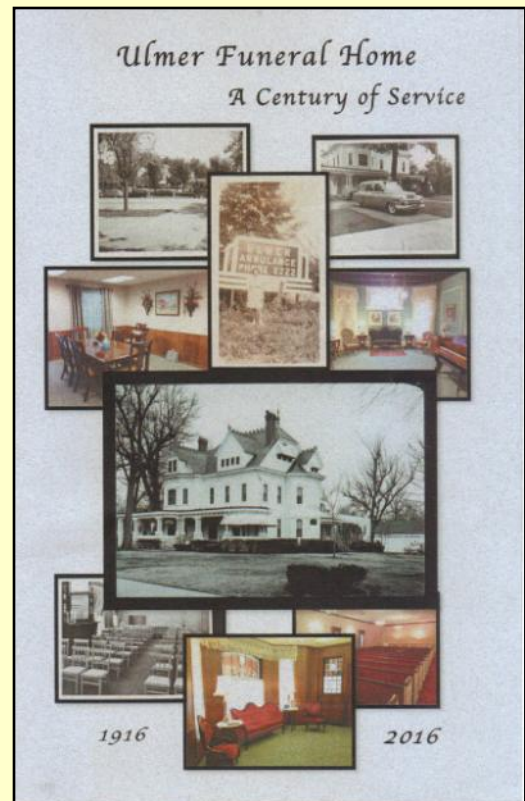
would like to be treated. We are forever indebted to those who came before us.

Through the years they began to see a need for the families they served and others in the community to not only have a place to have their family funeral dinners, but also to be able to hold other celebrations for their families. They added a Community Room with a small kitchen, rest room and tables and chairs for 50 to 60 people. It has been recently remodeled.

Karen Williamson is at funeral home as a Pre Arranged Funeral Counselor and also is responsible for organizing the Surviving Spouse group.

Their most recent addition is Maple Leaf Floral. In April, 2015 they began offering a full service florist for families and the public with Vickie Flenniken as their florist in addition to being the funeral home's office manager.

Ulmer Funeral Home is grateful to Carthage and the surrounding areas for the support given them for the 100 years of their operation.



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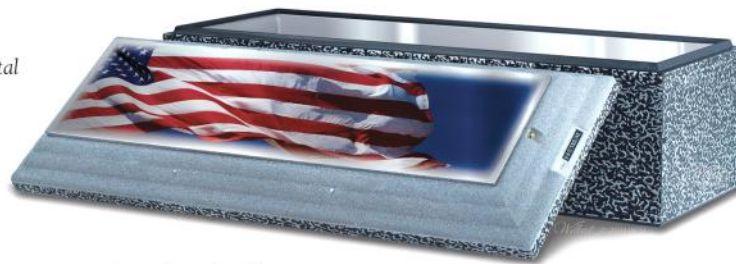
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The Dead Beat -The Caregivers Soapbox
Volume: **Fifteen** Issue: **Two**

Editor: **Joanne Howard**
Publisher: **Lowell Pugh and Joanne Howard**

The Dead Beat is published bi-monthly. Editorial and business offices are located at 400 Chestnut, Golden City, MO 64748. Phone (800) 575-2611

Subscriptions:
Additional copies for U.S.A. are \$24.00/ 1 year (6 issues).

For subscription, address changes, circulation, advertising assistance, write, phone or fax

H.L.Pugh & Associates Consulting
P.O. 145, Golden City, MO 64748
Toll Free (800) 575-2611 Fax (417) 537-4797
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