

The Buckeye Director

A publication of the Ohio Funeral Directors Association

Winter 2012

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PAGE 8

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PAGE 14



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The Buckeye Director

Volume 4 • Issue 4

The Ohio Funeral Directors Association

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OFDA Mission Statement

To represent and support our membership by promoting professional standards and excellence in funeral service.



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Did You Know?

OFDA accepts articles written by our membership for possible publication in *The Buckeye Director*.

The deadline for future issues is as follows:

- January 25 for the March issue

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The Process of Succeeding

Do you believe that success is the opposite of failure? That's exactly what most of us have been conditioned to think. Ask yourself, if someone makes an all-out effort to achieve a specific goal but doesn't quite make it, what has he or she done? Well, that all depends on exactly what success and failure may mean to you.

Most of you know that, for the past year, I have spent hours, weeks and months on end, training for the 2012 Louisville Ford Ironman. For those of you who don't know, an Ironman competition consists of a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike course and a 26.2-mile run consecutively. It's a huge commitment for anyone to train for and compete in, let alone finish, an event of this magnitude and proportion.

When I didn't finish the race, I felt as though somehow I didn't work hard enough or was not dedicated enough because I have been conditioned to think that anything is possible with hard work and determination. Frankly, for weeks, I asked myself if I was a failure. I was in fact embarrassed not only for myself but for my family as well. At that moment, I couldn't imagine what they must think of me. What I came to realize was that, for some, the result alone is what determines if we belong in the winners circle or not. If life were one single all-or-nothing event, perhaps we could afford to be that narrow-minded. But that's not the way life works! What I discovered through my journey was that where I failed was not in the specific event itself, but in recognizing the reality of where I did succeed. I did successfully swim 2.4 miles, and I biked 104 miles. That's an awesome achievement in itself!

I also know I did my best, and I soon came to realize that there are plenty of rivers yet to swim and countless roads to both bike and run. And although my body may have failed me, my mind and spirit continue to remain focused on this one single event. I had to ask myself, "Has anyone accomplished anything worthwhile that only required one attempt to get it right?" To quote Thomas Edison, "I have not

failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." Any time we learn from our hard work and efforts, we are in the process of succeeding, because each lesson brings us closer to our desired result. Calling the learning process "failing" is not only erroneous, it's also mentally challenging.

This summer, I learned that, no matter what the outcome, the insurmountable fear of the unknown is something we all have to face. Taking many of these same lessons into consideration, we as funeral professionals have watched how our local communities have changed and continue to evolve before us. With a six percent decline in the death rate across the United States, we as funeral home owners and managers are faced with an impasse. The funeral experience as we knew it yesterday is not the same as today, nor will it remain the same tomorrow.

As our industry continues to change, we must continue to look for additional avenues to best meet the changing needs of our families. Rather than measure successes based solely on our volume and burial-to-cremation ratios, I challenge our membership to look in the mirror and ask yourselves, how many of your services are meaningful and healing? Consider placing an emphasis on the services you offer to the community and less on the merchandise you supply them. Families could care less about your operating costs or overhead. Personally, I feel that today's consumers see more of a perceived value in the services we make available and less on the products we offer.

In order for us to remain profitable in today's financial climate, it's imperative for us to create a unique and innovative funeral experience. As our society continues to age and our baby boomers enter the marketplace, they will demand value, not inexpensive or cheap, but value-based services — and they're not afraid to pay for it. If you're not providing that value, they will look elsewhere to get it, and "elsewhere" may not necessarily be your competitor; it may be your local banquet hall or Holiday Inn.

As you look forward to 2013, don't be afraid to try something new and unconventional to achieve success. I've often been told that falling on your face is still moving forward!



Mark Merz, CFSP

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Priorities

As we do every holiday season, reflecting on the past 12 months and making plans for the New Year helps to set priorities in our hectic schedules.

Whatever you have decided as goals for 2013, I would like to share with you a message I recently came across to consider incorporating in your daily activities. The title of this message is simply:

Twenty Ways to a Happy Life

1. Compliment three people every day
2. Watch a sunrise or a sunset
3. Be the first to say "Hello"
4. Live beneath your means
5. Treat everyone as you want to be treated
6. Never give up on anybody; miracles happen
7. Forget the Joneses
8. Remember someone's name
9. Pray not for things but for wisdom and courage
10. Be tough-minded but tender-hearted
11. Be kinder than you have to be
12. Don't forget that a person's greatest emotional need is to feel appreciated
13. Keep your promises
14. Learn to show cheerfulness even when you don't feel like it
15. Remember that overnight success usually takes 15 years
16. Leave everything better than you found it
17. Remember that winners do what losers don't want to do
18. When you arrive at your job in the morning, let the first thing you say brighten everyone's day
19. Don't rain on other people's parades
20. Don't waste an opportunity to tell someone you love him or her

I wish to thank all of you for your continued support of OFDA and for the ministry you provide for the families you serve. Have a wonderful holiday season, and remember to take time to share with family and loved ones.



Stephen J. Gehlert



DECEMBER

- 4 District 5 Meeting with OFDA, Maggiano's, Kenwood
- 6 Executive Committee Meeting, Hilton Downtown Columbus
- 11 Insurance Seminar, OFDA Headquarters
- 11 District 12 Meeting with OFDA, Gasber's Fine Day Restaurant, St. Clairsville
- 24-25 OFDA Office Closed for Holiday

JANUARY

- 1 OFDA Office Closed for Holiday
- 15 Master Trust Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 15 Executive Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 16 Board of Directors Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 28 District 20 Meeting with OFDA, Location TBA

FEBRUARY

- 8-13 Annual Educational Conference, Hawaiian Islands
- 19 Master Trust Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 19 Executive Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters

MARCH

- 5-7 NFDA Advocacy Summit, Washington, D.C.
- 20 Master Trust Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 20 Executive Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters

APRIL

- 16 Master Trust Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 16 Executive Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters

MAY

- 21 Master Trust Committee Meeting, OFDA Headquarters
- 29-31 133rd OFDA Convention & Exhibition, Hilton Columbus at Easton
- 28 Master Training Seminar, Hilton Columbus at Easton
- 28 Insurance Seminar, Hilton Columbus at Easton
- 28 Executive Committee Meeting, Hilton Columbus at Easton
- 29 Board of Directors Meeting, Hilton Columbus at Easton
- 29 Past Presidents Dinner, Hilton Columbus at Easton



by T. Scott Gilligan,
OFDA General
Counsel

Antemortem Cremation Authorization Form of Little Value

In 1998, Ohio updated its cremation law by incorporating into Chapter 4717 major provisions of CANA's Model Cremation Law. Part of the CANA Model Cremation Law included an antemortem cremation authorization provision, which allows an individual the power to preauthorize the cremation of his or her remains upon death.

While many would argue a person should have the right to decide the ultimate disposition of his or her body upon death, the problem with adopting the CANA Model Cremation Law is that it created a dichotomy between cremation and all other forms of disposition in Ohio. With the adoption of the CANA Model Cremation Law, a person could authorize his or her own disposition, but only if it was cremation. There was no similar self-authorization provision for burial or other forms of disposition. Moreover, the new Ohio cremation law established a priority list of who could serve as the authorizing agent for cremation that was different than the priority list the courts had established for who could authorize burial and other forms of disposition.

Beyond the different priority lists established for cremation and other forms of disposition, it soon became apparent that the Antemortem Cremation Authorization Form (the "Antemortem Form") had its own shortcomings. The principal purpose of the Antemortem Form was to give an individual a mechanism to authorize his or her own cremation. However, the Ohio cremation law allowed a surviving spouse, children, parents, siblings or other next-of-kin to revoke the Antemortem Form after death. Therefore, even though an individual who signed the Antemortem Form opted for cremation, any surviving relative had the right to revoke that choice.

Another drawback to the Antemortem Form was it did not address issues such as positive identification of the body or implanted medical devices. In regular cremation arrangements, the authorizing agent is required by the Cremation and Disposition Authorization Form to make positive identification of the decedent and to disclose and authorize the removal of any medical device that could cause harm to crematory operators or equipment. There are no such disclosures in the Antemortem Form. Moreover, the Ohio cremation law provides that, if an Antemortem Form is signed, the cremation may proceed without the need for a Cremation and Disposition Authorization. Therefore, in the case of an Antemortem Form, there is neither positive identification of the decedent nor updated disclosures regarding the presence of medical devices.

Fortunately, some of the shortcomings of the Antemortem Form in the Ohio cremation law were addressed when OFDA sponsored legislation that resulted in the right of disposition law that is found in Section 2108.70 *et. seq.* of the Ohio Revised Code. The right of disposition law, which took effect in 2006, established a comprehensive priority list of who holds the right of disposition. That priority list applies to all forms of disposition. Therefore, regardless of the type of disposition selected, the priority list in Section 2108.81 controls.

The second major improvement made by the right of disposition law is it created a mechanism for an individual to control the disposition of his or her remains after death. Under Section 2108.72 of the Ohio Revised Code, an individual may enter into an Appointment of Representative form under which the individual can appoint a representative to carry out the funeral and disposition. That representative has the top priority in selecting the funeral and disposition arrangements. Therefore, unlike the Antemortem Form, the Appointment of Representative form cannot be superseded at death by surviving relatives. As a result, it is a far more effective instrument for an individual to use if he or she wants to ensure his or her remains are cremated after death.

Because of the shortcomings of the Antemortem Form and the effectiveness of the Appointment of Representative form, OFDA members are encouraged to use the Appointment of Representative form whenever an individual planning his or her own cremation expresses a concern about whether surviving family members will carry out his or her wishes. That individual should be encouraged to use the Appointment of Representative form to appoint a trusted family member or friend to carry out his or her cremation wishes. If OFDA members do not have an Appointment of Representative form in their files, one can be downloaded from www.ofdaonline.org.

OFDA members with questions regarding this article may contact General Counsel Scott Gilligan at 513-871-6332.

ASD Mobile Wins NFDA 2012 Innovation Award

On Monday, October 8, ASD – Answering Service for Directors was named the winner of the National Funeral Directors Association’s 2012 Innovation Award. The company was recognized for its game-changing smartphone application, ASD Mobile, which has revolutionized communication for thousands of funeral homes nationwide. ASD is honored to receive this award from the world’s leading funeral service association.

Established in 2009, the NFDA Innovation Award is given annually to a funeral service vendor whose product or service was introduced during the previous year and represents creativity, innovation and excellence. A distinguished panel of judges selected ASD Mobile as one of the five finalists for the award. After the 2012 finalists were selected, members of the funeral-service community had several months to vote on the product or service they felt deserved the award.

The ASD Mobile app is the perfect complement to the company’s team of sensitive, highly-trained call specialists. Within minutes of the announcement, ASD’s social sites began to fill up with comments from funeral professionals showing their support and appreciation for the app. Kevin Czachor was on stage to ac-

cept the prestigious award at the Opening General Session of the NFDA’s International Convention & Expo.

“ASD’s team of programmers built everything from the ground up with perfection as our goal. Our mobile app is just another example of how ASD’s unparalleled service is in a class of its own,” Kevin said. “We are honored and humbled that so many funeral professionals took the time to vote for our mobile app.”

More than one quarter of ASD’s clients rely on the ASD Mobile app to manage their ASD account and monitor critical calls while on the go. The app has received more than 50 five-star reviews on the Apple App Store since it was introduced less than 10 months ago — exceeding all other mobile apps created for the funeral profession. Many of the reviews posted by directors de-

scribe how the app has transformed the way their funeral homes conduct business.

“The ASD Mobile app is truly amazing. It functions on so many levels and lets clients have complete control in an instant,” wrote Rebecca Lautenslager, director of Shaughnessey Banks Funeral Home, in a recent review. “I’m not typically impressed with apps but this one really does make the life of a funeral director easier and more manageable.”

ASD is honored the NFDA judging panel and funeral-service community recognized the value and efficiency its app delivers. The company will continue to seek innovative mobile solutions for the profession and has plans for an imminent release of ASD Mobile for Android. Currently, more than 100 beta testers are helping ASD refine its Android app before it is released to the Google Play store.

SAC Awards Granted

The OFDA Scholastic Assistance Committee met in July to conduct interviews with student applicants requesting financial assistance from OFDA for their mortuary college tuitions. The Board of Directors accepted the committee’s recommendation to award six educational grants. We appreciate the continued support of districts, affiliated funeral service groups and members

for their generous contributions that enable worthy students’ financial assistance. The students who received SAC awards are: **Megan Betts**, Geneva (PIMS); **Danielle Flowers**, Lucasville (PIMS); **Angela Forchione**, Canton (PIMS); **Tyler O’Brien**, Toledo (CCMS); **Demi Smith**, Lima (CCMS); and **Joshua Werner**, Mansfield (CCMS).

Kudos

Kudos to Our Members



Kenneth A. Cahall, CFSP, Elected to NFDA Executive Board

The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) Policy Board met in July and elected Kenneth A. Cahall, CFSP, to serve as at-large representative on the association's Executive Board. Ken was installed at the NFDA Convention and will now begin to serve his two-year term.

Ken is the owner and president of Cahall Funeral Homes Inc. in Georgetown. He is an active member of the OFDA and has served as the association's secretary, treasurer, president-elect and president (2005). Additionally, he has volunteered his time as a member of several OFDA committees. Congratulations, Ken!



Terry Reardon, Ohio's New Representative on the NFDA Policy Board

The OFDA Board of Directors met on October 17 and, during its meeting, voted Terry Reardon, Higgins-Reardon Funeral Homes, Austintown, Canfield, Poland and North Jackson, as the Ohio representative to the NFDA Policy Board. Terry replaces Ken Cahall, who was recently elected to the NFDA Executive Board.

Terry is an active member of the OFDA and has served as the association's secretary, treasurer, president-elect and president (2010). Additionally, he has volunteered his time as a member of several OFDA committees. Congratulations, Terry!

Pursuit of Excellence Recognition During the NFDA Convention in Charlotte

The program's principal recognition, the Pursuit of Excellence Award, is awarded to NFDA-member funeral homes that meet or exceed business standards set forth by the program and

demonstrate proficiency in key areas of funeral service, such as compliance with state and federal regulations; providing ongoing education and professional development opportunities for staff members; offering outstanding programs and resources to bereaved families; maintaining an active level of involvement within the community; participating and actively serving in the funeral-service profession; and promoting funeral home services through a variety of marketing, advertising and public relations programs. Participants are also required to adhere to a Pledge of Ethical Practices.

The 2012 Pursuit of Excellence Award Recipients:

Bailiff & Son Funeral Home, Inc., Cridersville
Baird Funeral Home, Troy
Cassaday-Turkle-Christian Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Alliance
Dwayne R. Spence Funeral Homes, Pickerington
Higgins-Reardon Funeral Homes, Youngstown
Morman Funeral Home, Wakeman
Routsong Funeral Home & Cremation Center, Kettering
Sharer-Stirling-Skivolocke Funeral Home, Alliance
Wappner Funeral Directors & Crematory, Mansfield
Wonderly Horvath Hanes Funeral Home & Crematory, Fremont

Ohio APFSP-Certified Funeral Service Practitioners Honored at NFDA Convention

Congratulations to the following OFDA members who have earned their CFSP certification within the past 12 months:

Terrence L. Andryc, CFSP, Maumee
Robert P. Billman, CFSP, Ashtabula
Bradley J. Chute, CFSP, Newark
Wendy Hoffman Fisch, CFSP, Mount Healthy
Jeffrey T. Hathy, CFSP, Ashtabula
Edwin G. Herrick, CFSP, Ashland
Daniel P. Madden, CFSP, North Lima
Terry L. Palmer, CFSP, Chillicothe
James C. Strabler, CFSP, Waterville



Dwayne R. Spence, CFSP; Randall Earl, CFSP; and Jeff Seaman, CFSP



NFDA President Randall Earl, CFSP, with Judy and Terry Reardon



Lisa and Thomas (TR) Routsong, CFSP

Hall of Excellence

Created to recognize long-term participation in the Pursuit of Excellence program and a consistent display of service excellence, NFDA-member funeral homes will be inducted into the Hall of Excellence upon receiving their 10th Pursuit of Excellence Award.

The 2012 Hall of Excellence Inductees:

Dwayne R. Spence Funeral Homes, Pickerington
Higgins-Reardon Funeral Home, Youngstown
Routsong Funeral Home & Cremation Center, Kettering

Congratulations to the Following Funeral Homes Previously Inducted:

Baird Funeral Home, Troy (inducted in 2011, 11 years of participation)
Cassaday-Turkle-Christian Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Alliance (inducted in 2009, 13 years of participation)
Ducro Funeral Services & Crematory, Ashtabula (inducted in 2007, 12 years of participation)
Dwayne R. Spence Funeral Home, Canal Winchester (inducted in 2006, 14 years of participation)
Schoedinger Funeral Service, Columbus (inducted in 2009, 10 years of participation)
Toland-Herzig Funeral Homes & Crematory, Dover (inducted in 2010, 10 years of participation)
Wappner Funeral Directors & Crematory, Mansfield (inducted in 2011, 11 years of participation)



CCMS Graduate **Karen Sharpe** Receives OFDA Leadership Award



CCMS fall 2012 graduation commencement speaker Mark Merz, CFSP, OFDA president, presented Ms. Karen Sue Sharpe with the OFDA Leadership Award during the September 8 ceremonies. President Merz of Neville Funeral Homes, Holland, Ohio, was honored to recognize Ms. Sharpe for her exemplary leadership qualities

and abilities. Selected by the CCMS faculty and staff, Ms. Sharpe was presented with an award, along with a \$500 scholarship for continuing education and funeral-related resources on behalf of OFDA.

Meet Ms. Sharpe...

Born and raised on the west side of Cincinnati, Ms. Sharpe currently resides in historical Lebanon, Ohio. Prior to entering the Cincinnati

College of Mortuary Science (CCMS), she worked with individuals with disabilities for 22 years. She took great pride in the opportunity to work with this population of individuals, helping them find their purpose and meaning in life through their work, as well as what it took to live independently. Within those years, she experienced what it meant to live and die with dignity.

Following the calling in her heart, Ms. Sharpe enrolled at CCMS in September 2011 and spent the next year gaining the knowledge and skills needed to become a successful funeral director and embalmer. Voted class president, she represented her class proudly and became a voice for the students, as well as an intermediary with the faculty.

Ms. Sharpe graduated in September 2012 with an associate's degree in applied science and currently works at Dalbert, Woodruff and Isenogle Funeral Home in Cincinnati, Ohio, completing her apprenticeship as a funeral director and embalmer under the direction of master Clay Isenogle.

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What Information and Training Do I Need to Provide for New Employees?

by Barb Garrison, MS, CHMM, CCP, President,
Safety and Environmental Solutions, LLC

If you have attended one of the many apprentice seminars hosted by the OFDA, you've heard my spiel on what information and training you should provide for new employees at your funeral home with respect to Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) requirements. For those of you who may have forgotten — or haven't heard my spiel — here's a review of some of the most important information and training you need to provide:

1. Bloodborne Pathogens Training: You must provide bloodborne pathogens training for any employee with reasonably anticipated exposure to human blood or other potentially infectious materials (OPIMs) before he or she has contact with blood or OPIMs, and then annually. Even if new employees are embalmers who have had extensive bloodborne pathogens training, you will need to train them on your funeral home's specific exposure-control practices.

2. Hepatitis B Vaccine: You must offer any employee with reasonably anticipated exposure to human blood or OPIMs the hepatitis B vaccine, even if he or she has previously received the vaccine. This must be offered within the first 10 days of being hired. If he or she declines the vaccine (e.g., because he or she has already had it), remember to have him or her sign a copy of the declination form found in your OFDA manual.

3. Formaldehyde Training: You must provide facility-specific formaldehyde training for new embalmers before they have exposure to formaldehyde, and then annually. This should include a review of the applicable Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) and safety equipment such as your quick-drench shower and eyewash station.

4. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE): You must provide PPE training for new employees before you expose them to a hazard that requires the use of PPE. This goes for all employees who wear PPE, not just embalmers and removal personnel. This training should include a review of the PPE Hazard Assessment that you should have completed for your funeral home.

5. Emergency Action Plan (EAP): You must provide new employees with training on your company's EAP when they are hired. This is the plan that lets them know what they are expected to do in the event of an emergency, such as a fire or tornado.

6. Infectious Waste Management: In terms of compliance with OEPA requirements, it is important that your employees know that, if your infectious waste is going into the regular trash, it must be weighed each time before it is set out for collection and documented on a waste-generation record. A copy of this record can be found in the OFDA OSHA manual.

Make sure you document all training you provide for employees. If it isn't documented, OSHA may not believe that it happened.

If you have any health, safety, or environmental questions, please feel free to contact me at 614-404-3384 or bgarrison@sandesolutions.net.

Sixth Annual PAC Sporting Clay Outing Hits the Mark!



This was a great fall day for shooting clays. Mad River Sportsman's Club hosted the largest group to date, with 52 OFDA members, affiliates, family and friends. Expert marksmen and novice shooters enjoyed a day of shooting in the hills of Zanesfield, Ohio.

The OFDA PAC graciously accepted a net profit of nearly \$4,000 to the 2012 campaign. A huge thank-you to the sponsors who helped generate much-needed revenue.

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OFDA District #10

Door prizes donated by John McGough & Mad River Sportsman's Club

WINNERS

- First Place (88 clays broken): Jon Deitloff, Miamisburg
- Second Place (87 clays broken): Gary Cromes, Sidney
- Third Place (86 clays broken): Jim Meeker, Russellville
- Best Golf Score: Joan Billman, Ashtabula



Winners Meeker, Cromes, Deitloff and Billman



Signed David Maass print donated by Bart Shively, Suber-Shively Funeral Home, awarded to second-place team of Rich Bystorm, Robert Dean, Tate Hendrick and Bob Sharp



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Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science Appoints Interim President – Jeffrey Shapiro

The Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Jeffrey A. Shapiro as interim president.

After his education at Rutgers University (BA, economics) and the Wharton Graduate School, University of Pennsylvania (MGA, public finance), Mr. Shapiro first worked with the city of Philadelphia before embarking on assignments as a city manager in both New Jersey and Pennsylvania communities.

From that beginning Mr. Shapiro has served 40 years in the field of education administration and not-for-profit management. That career spanned senior administrative and finance work with both major universities and smaller colleges. Not-for-profit organizations included major government contractors, research organizations and other education-

related organizations. Also of interest has been his service as the senior administrator with the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra.

Most recently, Mr. Shapiro served as the vice president of administrative services at a small community college in New York, and before that, he worked as a senior financial and administrative director of the development and operation of the Biomedical Graduate Research Organization at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C.

His portfolio also includes work in international education (which includes the management of an overseas school and smaller learning centers).

Mr. Shapiro maintains a notable expertise in the area of working to revitalize orga-

nizations and develop a stronger basis for sustainability. His broad range of experience and knowledge will be of great benefit to CCMS, and we look forward to the collaborative approach he will bring to our educational community.

The Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science is an institution that endeavors to develop professionals who can function with distinction within their chosen profession and within the community of life. We strive to provide the best education possible for the entry-level practice of funeral service. CCMS has been setting the standard in mortuary science education since 1882, making it the nation's oldest school of its kind. CCMS is constantly striving to improve the quality of funeral-service education. www.ccms.edu.

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CareWorks Consultants is beginning to evaluate Ohio employers for the July 1, 2013, program. For more information or to schedule a free evaluation, please contact CareWorks Consultants, toll-free, at 800-837-3200.



Robert Jesse Brooke, 79, formerly of Peebles, Ohio, passed away Wednesday, October 17, 2012, at the Georgetown, Ohio, Veterans Home. He was born January 14, 1933, in Columbus, Ohio, a son of the late Jesse Weaver and Clara Louise Sears Brooke.

A funeral director and embalmer, Bob was the owner and operator of the former Brooke Funeral Home in Peebles for 31 years. He was a 1951 graduate of Peebles High School, Ohio University Portsmouth and the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in the class of 1973. Bob was of the Methodist faith and an Army veteran of the Korean War, where he earned the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal. He was a member of the Peebles Masonic Lodge, a 32nd-degree mason, and he was a 50-year member of the Scottish Rite. Bob was also a member of the Ohio Funeral Directors Association.

His wife, Sharon Sue Thompson Brooke, with whom he operated the funeral home, preceded him in death on November 7, 2004.

Surviving Bob is one son, Robert Jay Brooke of Burlington, Vermont; one daughter, Becky Jo Cooper of McDermott; two brothers, Thomas Sears Brooke of Redmond, Washington, and John Marshall Brooke of Cleveland; one sister, Mary Louise Thomas of Seaman; two grandchildren, Chelsie and Codie Cooper; several nieces and nephews; and his late wife's daughters, Rhonda and Regina, and their families.

Memorial contributions may be sent to Georgetown, Ohio, Veterans Home, 2003 Veterans Boulevard, Georgetown, OH 45121.

Betty Ann (Weaver) Combs, 78, of Zanesville, died peacefully at her residence on August 30, 2012, following a four-year battle with Alzheimer's disease. She was born Thursday, December 21, 1933, in Hemlock, the daughter of Emmett G. Weaver and Florence (Allen-Stoneburner) Weaver. She married the late Robert E. "Bob" Combs, the love of her life, on Saturday, September 5, 1953.

Betty was a member of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church and a committed life-long Lutheran. She had a strong faith and was conservative in her beliefs. Betty was a dedicated and active Republican and had a passionate work ethic. Betty retired in 2003 following more than 50 years of service to the Muskingum County Treasurer's Office as senior deputy. During her tenure, she had the opportunity to service under five county treasurers. She also served as clerk for the village of Fultonham for more than 25 years. In her 50s, she took a class in cake decorating, and, within a short time, her interest became an active cake-baking business, providing wedding and anniversary cakes to many area couples. She loved to play the organ, in her own words, "for my pleasure only." She enjoyed crocheting, needlepoint and spending time with her family and friends. Betty enjoyed life to the fullest, had a great sense of humor and never met a stranger. Betty was a loving and caring wife, mother and mother-in-law.

Betty is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Tim and Ann Combs of Zanesville; her devoted four-legged companions, Mini, Maggie and Bo; her special friends, Bev Foley and Bart and Kate Hagemeyer, all of Zanesville; one brother-in-law, Art Titko; one niece, Pam and Jerry Sprankle, all of Newark; one nephew, Brian Titko of Tennessee; two cousins, Ruth Ann Weaver of Pataskala and

Ronald Weaver of Columbus; two great-nieces; and her many "courthouse" friends from over the years.

In addition to her parents, Betty was preceded in death by her beloved husband of more than 48 and a half years, Bob, who died June 6, 2002; one sister, Verjena Titko; and an infant brother, Edwin Jerold Weaver.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Trinity Organ Fund, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 128 South Seventh Street, Zanesville; or the Pet Peace of Mind Program with Genesis Hospice and Palliative Care, 713 Forest Avenue, Zanesville, in Betty's memory.

Marilyn Everist (née Barenfeld), age 84, died on August 2, 2012. Dearly beloved wife of Hugh Livingston and Farrell Everist (both deceased); loving mother of the late Becky (JR) Gonzalez, Joanne (Patrick) Helbig and Kay (Joseph) Craciun; dearest grandmother of Jason and Brian Smith; Lori Benesh; Lisa Gonzalez; Tom, Mike and Jack Helbig; and Alexandra, Sam and Charlie Craciun; great-grandmother of Riley, Troy, Dylan, Mackenzie and Brooklan; and dear sister of Dorothy Horning and Cathy Caruthers. Marilyn was past worthy matron of Day Chapter 479, Lorain, Ohio, for three terms: 1963, 1996 and 2001. Marilyn was administrator of Avon Oaks Nursing Home for 28 years.

Michael A. Hoeflinger, 84, of Bayshore Road, Oregon, Ohio, died Monday, August 20, 2012, at his residence. A lifelong resident

of east Toledo and Oregon, Ohio, Mike was a graduate of the Hall of the Divine Child in Monroe, Michigan, Champion High School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, the University of Notre Dame and the Cleveland College of Mortuary Science.

Upon graduation, Mike joined his father, Ted, at Hoeflinger Funeral Home, the first funeral service in east Toledo and the surrounding suburbs that Mike's grandfather Michael had established in 1877. Mike was drafted in 1950, early in the Korean War, and served as executive officer of an armored company. Upon his discharge in 1953, he rejoined his father in the family funeral business and became owner in 1968.

In 1972, Mike built Oregon's first mortuary at 3500 Navarre Avenue, Oregon, and developed Peacebird Garden, Ohio's first landscaped garden for outdoor services. He instituted Ohio's first continuing grief support group by a mortuary and developed Ohio's first extensive mortuary library of books, pamphlets and videos to help families and teachers to better understand adults' and children's problems related to death and grief. He retired from full-time management in 1997 but remained as a funeral director in a part-time capacity.

He worked hand-in-hand with his daughter Lynn Rosenbrook for 24 years. Mike was past president of the Oregon Chamber of Commerce, the Cardinal Stritch School Board, the East Toledo Club and the Parish Council of Sacred Heart Church. He was also a member of the Board of Helping Hands of St. Louis Church, a member of Mayor Kessler's Committee to Develop International Park, co-chair of the 2006 Oregon School Levy Committee, a member of the American Legion Dunberger Post and a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Surviving are his wife, Judy; his children, Lynn (Paul) Rosenbrook of Temperance, Michigan, Michael J. (Alie) Hoeflinger of Monclova, Carol (Thomas P.) Lindsay of Toledo, Susan (Daniel J.) McKernan of Sylvania and Scott E. (Anne) Hoeflinger of Westlake, Ohio; his stepchildren, Julie (Lonnice) McCarthy, Patrick Roop and Amy (Chris) Jenkins; 19 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and 11 step-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Theodore and Gertrude; his sister, Helen Grace Andrews; and his brother, Ted Hoeflinger.

Memorial contributions can be sent to Cardinal Stritch Kateri School, 3225 Pickle Road, Oregon, OH 43616 or Helping Hands of St. Louis, 443 6th Street, Toledo, OH 43605.

Richard J. Hoskinson, 78, Zanesville, formerly of Gratiot, died Monday, August 27, 2012, following an extended illness. He was born March 20, 1934, in Brownsville, the son of Helen V. (Kreager) Hoskinson of Zanesville and the late James Edgar "Ike" Hoskinson, who died in July 1966.

He was a 1951 graduate of Hopewell High School and attended Ohio University. He served honorably in the U.S. Army. Dick worked for Kaiser Aluminum in Heath for 34 years, retiring in the fall of 1987 as the sales service manager. Following his retirement, he operated Hoskinson's Flowers in Heath and the Downtown Deli in Zanesville. He also loved helping Rick at the funeral home while his health allowed it. An active member of the Gratiot community, he was a life-long member of Gratiot United Methodist Church; Jackson Lodge #85 F.&A.M., where he served as worshipful master in 1965; a three-term member of the West Muskingum School Board; and a two-term member of the Mid-East Career and Vocational Center. He also belonged to the Hopewell Post of the American Legion and was a former member of the Muirfield Village Golf Club at Dublin.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his wife, Lois Ann (Sterrett), in January 2008, along with his much-loved uncle, Lt. Col. Howard M. Kreager, in 2007.

He is survived by his loving family, which, in addition to his mother, includes, his children, Beth (Ralph) Rose, Rick and Jim (Susan) Hoskinson; his grandsons, Ryan (Cassie) Rose, C.J. and Drew Hoskinson; his aunts, Mary Cole and Trudy Kondrath; and several cousins, including Gary (Betty) Hoskinson. His extended family includes his brothers-in-law, Ron (Mary Jane) Sterrett and Gary (Penny) Sterrett; Lois Easton (Mrs. Richard Sterrett); family friends Mark Pinnick and Linda (Dave) Shields, of whom Dick considered Linda to

be "just like a sister to me"; along with his lifelong friend Maralou Campbell.

Martha Jane Huntley, 89, of Vinton, Ohio, passed away at 12:32 p.m. on Wednesday, July 25, 2012, in the Holzer Medical Center. Born May 31, 1923, in Columbus, Ohio, she was the daughter of the late Earl Raymond and Gertrude Cleppien Wern. She was a homemaker and a member of the Trinity United Methodist Church at Porter.

Surviving are her husband, Seth William Huntley, whom she married July 14, 1945, in Columbus, Ohio; her daughter, Ruth Ann (Charles) Greenlee, Vinton, Ohio; her son, Carl K. (Polly) Huntley, Wellston, Ohio; six grandchildren, Rebekah Greenlee, Vinton, Ohio; Rachel (Kurt) Pfeiffer, Breckenridge, Missouri; Joseph (Shawndra) Greenlee, Vinton, Ohio; Hannah (Darren) Livie, Winslow, Maine; Jessica Gardner, Wellston, Ohio; and Jared Huntley, Wellston, Ohio; seven great-grandchildren, Kaitlin Greenlee, Sydney Pfeiffer, Shayna Feustal, Zach Feustal, Savannah Greenlee, Virginia Greenlee and Lauran Gardner; a brother, Richard E. Wern, Columbus, Ohio; a half-brother, Donald Wern, Highland Ranch, Colorado; and a very special friend, Peg Stevens, Vinton, Ohio.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her stepmother, Millie Wern.

Cynthia L. (Rossi) Lockney, 62, passed away Friday, August 17, 2012, at her residence after an extended illness. Cynthia was born December 14, 1949, in Warren, the daughter of Peter P. and Jennie D. Rossi.

Cindy was a 1967 graduate of Howland High School and a graduate of the McKlveen & Long School of Cosmetology. She retired in 2008 as the office manager of the Peter Rossi & Son Memorial Chapel after 30 years. She was a member of St. Mary's Church and enjoyed baking, danc-

ing, singing, watching TV soap operas and socializing with family and friends, especially her grandchildren.

Cindy is survived by two children, Jennilyn Maroulis and Christopher (Amy) Lockney, both of Howland; two granddaughters, Anastacia and Izabella Maroulis; her brother, Peter P. (Mary) Rossi Jr. of Howland; her sister, Carolyn (Richard) Radich of Warren; and her brother-in-law, Robert L. Luscher of Cortland. Also surviving are 11 nieces and nephews, especially the two who helped take care of her for the last two years, Alysa Whisler-Howland and Graceann Tomkins Howland; and 14 great-nieces and -nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents and a sister, Sandra Luscher.

Contributions may be made to her grandchildren's education fund, c/o of the Peter Rossi & Son Memorial Chapel, 1884 North Road NE, Warren, OH 44483.

Jeanne (Mack) Meier, 89, of Lima, Ohio, died on Tuesday, August 14, 2012, at 11:40 a.m. at St. Rita's Medical Center, Lima, Ohio. Born Tuesday, February 27, 1923, in Cincinnati, Ohio, she was the daughter of the late Raymond Mack and the late Katherine (Clifford) Mack.

Jeanne married LeRoy M. Meier on April 25, 1942. He preceded her in death on April 27, 2012. They had been married for 70 years. She was a 1941 graduate of Lima Central High School. She was a member of St. Gerard Catholic Church and a volunteer at St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. She was a volunteer at St. Rita's Thrift Store and was on the WTGN Prayer Chain. She was a member of the Secular Franciscan Order Queen of the Angels Fraternity, Lima, Ohio.

Surviving are two daughters, Karen (Clarence) Neeper of Lima, Ohio, and Robin (Pete) White of Lima, Ohio; nine grandchildren, Mike (Lora) Neeper of Delaware, Ohio, Jon (Chandra Lewis) Neeper of Lima, Ohio, Marta (Ron) Truex, of Lima, Ohio, Kurt (Jerilyn) Neeper,

of Lima, Ohio, Brittany White of Reno, Nevada, Ashley White of Reno, Nevada, Caitlin White of Lima, Ohio, Zachary White of Lima, Ohio, and Annelise (Rico) Jones of Cincinnati, Ohio; and eight great-grandchildren, Jordan, Christian and Quinn Neeper; Ethan, Brayden and Connor Truex; Cameron Hopkins; and Chiara Meier.

She was preceded in death by a son, Mike Meier; a daughter, Cathie Ahmed; four brothers, Marlin Mack, John Mack, Ray Mack and Carl Mack; and two sisters, Harriet Morris and Elizabeth Francis.

Memorial contributions may be sent to St. Gerard Catholic Church, 240 W. Robb, Lima, OH 45801.

Rachael Ramsey-Bamonte passed away suddenly on August 25, 2012, bringing the most precious of all gifts into the world. Rachael was born in Hamilton, Ohio, on March 9, 1973, to Doug and Carol Ramsey.

Rachael grew up in Franklin County and had recently been living in St. Leon for the last several years. Rachael was joined in marriage to Joe Bamonte on August 31, 2002, at Holy Family Church in Oldenburg. True to Rachael's character to help others, she graduated from CCMS with a bachelor's degree in mortuary science and spent several years in the funeral industry before taking a period of time off to raise the first of three children. Rachael then went on to receive her MBA from Northern Kentucky University and was a business analyst for Hillenbrand Industries in Batesville. In addition to her professional career, Rachael also committed time to the Ohio Funeral Directors Association Mortuary Response Team and the federal Disaster Mortuary Response Team. Rachael very much enjoyed being part of the St. Leon community, going out to dinner with friends and family, and her Wednesday night golf league with her girls.

Rachael was preceded in death by an older brother, Russell Ramsey, but those keeping Rachael's memory alive are Doug and Carol Ramsey; her sister, Lisa Ramsey; her

spouse, Joe Bamonte; many aunts, uncles and cousins; and many loving friends. Most of all, life carries on with her three children, Alexandra (11), Salvatore (5) and new baby Valentina.

Memorial donations, most appreciated, can be made to the Olivia Rebecca Waggoner Memorial Endowment Fund.

Kay Storch, 98, of Brunswick, Georgia, passed away Saturday, August 25, 2012, at Magnolia Manor Nursing Home.

Kay was born August 6, 1914, in Hamilton, Ohio, to the late Frank Hixon and Anna Smith Hixon. She was a graduate of Hamilton High School in Hamilton, Ohio. Kay and her late husband, Mr. Edmond Storch Sr., owned and operated Storch Funeral Home in New Madison, Ohio, for more than 30 years. She later worked in the catalog department for Sears in Florida, from where she retired.

Kay was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Brunswick, where she attended the Together Sunday School class. She was also a member of Eastern Star in New Madison, Ohio. Kay was an avid reader and enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, Kay was preceded in death by her husband, Edmond Carl Storch Sr., and two brothers.

She is survived by a son, Ed Storch Jr., and his wife, Janet, of Brunswick, Georgia; two grandchildren, Kimberly Joiner and her husband, Robert, of Saint Simons Island, Georgia, and Scott Storch and his wife, Laura, of Kennesaw, Georgia; four great-grandchildren, Wesley Joiner of Winston-Salem, North Carolina; Clay Joiner of Saint Simons Island, Georgia; and Julie Storch and Bailey Storch, both of Kennesaw, Georgia.

Memorial contributions may be made to the First United Methodist Church of Brunswick, c/o Capital Building Fund, 1400 Norwich Street, Brunswick, GA 31520, 912-265-4313.



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