



Mortuary Minutes Newsletter

Transforming Death Care Education

FALL 2024

WWW.CCMS.EDU

2024...IN SUMMARY

As we begin to close out 2024, we always focus on the things we are thankful for and as we prepare for Commencement on December 13th, we stop and think about our graduates getting ready to begin their new journey and the lives that they will touch throughout their careers.

Our list of things to be thankful for at CCMS continues to grow and it is such an amazing time to think about our accomplishments this year:

- Continued growth of our Educational Cremation Center
- All of our supporters to help make our events and programs successful
- All of our students and alumni that continue to grow and share their passion for the funeral profession
- Our Board members that provide great support and dedication throughout the year
- And most importantly, our faculty and staff that provide dedication to provide the best experience and education possible to our students

We would like to wish all of you a happy and safe holiday and look forward to another great year at CCMS!



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Our alumni's 50th Class Reunion was a huge success! We are so happy to see them come together to celebrate their accomplishments. Interested in having your own class reunion? Contact us at 513.761.2020 to get the planning started!



Message from the President



President & CEO
Jack E. Lechner, Jr.

Celebrating Excellence and Innovation at CCMS: December Updates from the President

As we approach the end of the year, it's a time to reflect, celebrate achievements, and look forward to the future. At the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science (CCMS), we are proud to announce that our December 2024 Graduation Ceremony will take place on Friday, December 13th, at 2:00 PM at the Sharonville Convention Center in Sharonville, Ohio. This ceremony marks the culmination of hard work and dedication for 52 graduates from eight different states. The commencement address will be given by Mr. George Horne, II, Past President and Board Member of the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

These graduates have demonstrated excellence, as reflected in their first-time pass rates on the National Board Examination (NBE). This graduating class achieved a first-time pass rate of 85% for both Arts and Science, significantly outperforming the national averages of 78% for Arts and 67% for Science. This success is a testament to our unwavering commitment to delivering the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE) curriculum with precision and focus. The CCMS NBE first time pass rate for 2023 was 86% for the Arts and 77% for Science.

As I often say, "If a graduate can't pass the NBE, they are blocked from entering our profession, no matter how competent." At CCMS, we take this challenge seriously. Since my tenure began in 2016, when the first-time pass rate for Science was only at 57%, our faculty and staff have worked tirelessly to reach the incredible results we see today. Their dedication to our students' success deserves recognition and gratitude.

The Educational Cremation Center: A National Leader in Innovation

Another source of pride for CCMS is the fully operational Educational Cremation Center (ECC). As the only mortuary college in the nation to offer hands-on cremation education, CCMS continues to set itself apart. Students not only receive instruction but actively participate in the cremation process, including handling and processing remains.

The ECC features state-of-the-art equipment, such as an FT III cremator, auto loader, processor, and a PET 400 for hands-on instruction in Alkaline Hydrolysis (AH). This greener method of disposition, with only 10% of the carbon footprint of traditional cremation, is also a cornerstone of our expanding pet loss program. Funeral homes can now utilize our facilities for cremations, including the use of our witness room and slumber bed, providing families the opportunity to view their loved one, have a moment to say good-bye, and participate in the cremation process.

We invite local funeral homes to schedule cremations, alkaline hydrolysis services, or to utilize our witness room by calling 513.761.3773.



Message from the President

Looking Ahead: Expanding Online Education

In our continued efforts to evolve and meet the needs of future students, we are developing a fully online funeral service program, set to launch in the fall of 2025. This program will offer both full-time and part-time options, ensuring accessibility for aspiring professionals nationwide.

Supporting CCMS: Ways to Give

As we close the year, I invite you to support CCMS through tax-deductible donations. Consider making a contribution, participating in planned giving, or donating cremation recycling revenue to sustain our mission of excellence in funeral service education. Your support is vital to the continued success of CCMS and its innovative programs.

Finally, I encourage alumni and professionals to share their ideas for continuing education (CE) topics for the upcoming compliance period. Let us know what you'd like to see explored. You can reach me directly at jlechner@ccms.edu.

We are proud of all we have accomplished together this year, and we look forward to a bright future for our graduates and the entire CCMS community. Thank you for your continued support of our mission. Have a great holiday season!

Warm regards,
Jack E. Lechner, Jr., CFSP, CT
President and CEO
Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science

C A L L I N G
A L L
A L U M N I

Alumni Updates!

Please take a moment to update us on your contact information by clicking [here](#) to provide us with your current information, so we can keep you up-to-date on all of the great things happening at CCMS: <https://forms.gle/4pYKnmtMNno8auCx7> or email alumni@ccms.edu.

Alumni, are you interested in supporting CCMS? We are looking for Alumni Ambassadors to join other CCMS alumni in representing the college at career fairs, fundraising, volunteer during special events, and more! Please click [here](#) to submit your interest, or if you have additional questions, please feel free to contact:

Holly Hoffman,
Director of Admissions at hhoffman@ccms.edu.



Academics at CCMS

Throughout our program, students get the opportunity to connect with colleagues in the death care profession. Over this past term, the following have provided presentations to our students.

- Alex Kistler, Global Recruiters, Inc. visited Professional Relationships in January and May
- Jack Mueller, Mueller Funeral Home visited our Historical to Contemporary Funeral Practices in March and July
- Fr. Jon McClish, Holy Trinity-St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church hosted Historical to Contemporary Funeral Practices in March and July
- Kim Ogle, Brown-Dawson-Flick Funeral Home visited Aftercare in Funeral Service in February and October
- Theresa Correa, Yvonne Slonaker, Tracey Brumley & the Spring Grove staff for hosting our Event Management class
- Joshua Woodruff, Wappner Funeral Home in Mansfield

Thank you for your continued support in helping us provide our students with the best education and experiences!

Our current Semester 4 class on the field trip to Astral Industries Inc. to get an inside look at how caskets are manufactured! This experience connected them firsthand to the merchandising curriculum in Funeral Service Management 3 last semester.



Kat Vancil-Coleman

Fall 2023 Graduate Kat Vancil-Coleman visited campus to give a wonderful presentation to our Semester 4 class, Funeral Service Seminar.

Her presentation called

"Death Without Deadnames: Respecting LGBTQIA+ Realities in Deathcare"

is meant to help educate Funeral Directors/ Embalmers on the importance of rights and preferences in the LGBTQIA+ community. She covered:

- Basic terms for different aspects of queer identity
- Addressed some particular areas of concern to the community
- Discussed what types of situations could arise when you have an LGBTQIA+ decedent with unsupportive family members,
- Talked about some outreach opportunities to help build trust and goodwill with queer individuals, families, and organizations.

We are so proud of her advocacy for the LGBTQIA+ community and her passion for educating those within the death care profession.



Academics at CCMS

Event and Catering Management in Funeral Service

The Fall semester class put together a spectacular Service of Remembrance Event for their final project. They went above and beyond with a heartfelt presentation showcasing everyone's lost loved ones. They transformed our Classroom A/B into a beautiful display of delicious foods, decorations, commemoration, tears, and laughter. It was a truly beautiful event!



Restorative Art Showcase

The Annual Restorative Art showcase provides our students an opportunity to show their outstanding skills in restorative arts.





Continuing Education

WWW.CCMS.EDU

CCMS cannot do it without all of your support!
A special thank you to other recent donors that
sponsored continuing education in 2024!

- Frank Rosenacker & Associates
- Mid States Recycling
- Donate Life of Ohio
- Turner Vault Company
- Spring Grove Funeral Home
- FDLIC & Passare
- ICCFA

As we wrap up a full year of class offerings, we are working on
developing our 2025 Course Offerings Calendar! Watch for
more details to come, or visit our website at
[ccms.edu/continuing education!](http://ccms.edu/continuing-education)



What's Happening at CCMS?

Event Highlights

Annual Job Fair

The CCMS Annual Job Fair in November sponsored by CCMS, OFDA, IFDA and FDAK was a great success! We had 17 employers visit from eight different states. This event provides a great opportunity for our students to network!



Summer Car Show

CCMS held its first summer car show to raise funds to help benefit student resources. We were small but mighty as we dealt with a cloudy day! Lots of fun to be had by all!





What's Happening at CCMS?

Event Highlights

4th Annual Golf Outing

Thank you to everyone who joined us for the 4th Annual CCMS Golf Classic on September 18, 2024.

We are so incredibly grateful for the continued support year after year, we couldn't do this without the support of community partners, donations, staff, volunteers and everyone that participated in the event! It was absolutely wonderful seeing everyone and we hope you all had as much fun as we did. The fundraising event benefits student scholarships and to reduce the cost to attend college. This year, the College raised over \$29,000! A huge thank you to the staff, volunteers and Golf Committee members: Alesha Neal, Laura Nobbe, Pam Ulery, Steve Bittner, Tim King, Mark Merz, Cyanna Westfall and Holly Hoffman.





THANK YOU
TO OUR SPONSORS
TO OUR DONORS

Thank you....Golf Outing Supporters!

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ADDITIONAL SPONSORS:

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REGER FUNERAL HOME
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of Hamilton County

**THE
WEB**
EXTREME ENTERTAINMENT

REDS

Swensons
DRIVE-IN

ASM

COSI
Center of Science and Industry

COSTCO
WHOLESALE



What's Happening at CCMS?

Student Life

Students have been enjoying a break from their rigorous education for a little fun with student activities, including Exam Destress events such as hot cocoa bars and pet therapy visitors, Cookie Decorating, National Food Day events, Summer Car Show, Halloween, and more! The newly formed GSA Club also participated in the Cincinnati Pride Festival.

More events will be coming this winter, including karaoke, bowling, cookouts, and more! If you are interested in sponsoring any of our events or participating in our upcoming fundraisers, please contact Tausha Ross, Director of Learning Resources and Student Services, at tross@ccms.edu.





CCMS Family

New Employees: CCMS would like to introduce our new employees that have joined the CCMS family.

Mark Ivey, Program Director

Mark Ivey is a licensed funeral director and embalmer who graduated from CCMS in 1990. Mark is returning to CCMS after having served as the Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at the college from 2018 to 2021. In addition to being a funeral home and crematory owner, Mark has extensive experience in end-of-life services. He has served as a manager for combination funeral and cemetery properties, large funeral organizations, family-owned businesses as well as a cremation service, taught courses at CCMS, and has a background in hospitality management. Mark earned his MBA from Thomas More College in Kentucky. He brings a unique set of skills and experience and the college is excited that Mark has decided to return to CCMS as the Program Director.



Kiana Alford, Faculty/Clinical Instructor

Kiana is a licensed funeral director and embalmer in the state of Indiana, and is reciprocating her licensure and certifications to Ohio. She graduated from CCMS in 2022 with her Bachelor's Degree and was awarded The Dodge Award for exceptional advancement in the art and science of embalming; she is also a Certified Life Celebrant and Crematory Operator in Indiana. She is earning her Masters Degree in Thanatology from Marian University – Wisconsin. She has background previously in sales and management. Kiana is a Tri-State area native and served as a



funeral director and embalmer for two local Indiana funeral homes, both of which she contracts for as an embalmer. She grew up with an interest in death care and later in life found her calling to the funeral profession in which she loves deeply and wants to help transform in order to take away the macabre stigma surrounding it. Kiana's passion for the death care profession is apparent and she wants to give back to the students entering CCMS's doors to help them become the best funeral directors and embalmers they can be.

In her free time Kiana enjoys reading, arts of all kinds, attending concerts, and being an aunt to her two young nieces and friends children.

Kurt Olding, Adjunct Clinical Instructor

Kurt graduated from CCMS in 2011 and has worked as a licensee in a range of funeral homes from small family owned and operated firms to large central preparation facilities.



His experience covers facets of the funeral home work life from funeral attendant work to management. He is most proud of his time spent developing and managing a large central care facility and has always gravitated to the clinical aspects of the industry but never losing sight of serving families in the process. The many responsibilities and experiences in Kurt's career have shaped a strong mentorship mentality and he is excited to assist in developing the future generations of the death care industry.

Outside of CCMS, Kurt is still working with families and conducting funerals as a certified celebrant; and works as a fulltime firefighter for the Cincinnati Fire Department. He is a proud girl dad and enjoys many hobbies that surround computer and table-top gaming.



CCMS Family

Krista Ralston, Staff Accountant

Krista is thrilled to be joining the accounting department at CCMS. With over 20 years of experience in accounting across various industries, she brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her new role. Krista is currently pursuing a Bachelor's in Accounting at the University of Phoenix, further enhancing her skills and knowledge. When she's not working or taking classes, Krista enjoys reading and spending quality time with her five grandchildren. She is excited to contribute to the success of CCMS and continue her professional growth in the field of accounting.



Staff Appreciation Day:

The GSA Club hosted a staff appreciation day event and created posters to hang in the halls of campus. Check out some of the kind notes of appreciation in honor of our amazing staff!

~ Mr. Kindoll is one of my favorites. He always goes above and beyond to make sure that students understand the material. He also is one of the few professors that I feel like I can joke around with or vent to if needed. CCMS would not be the same without Mr. Kindoll.

~ Ms. Ross genuinely wants the best for us all, gotta love Library Mom. She will help you study, recommend books and make sure you're on track!

~ Mr. Vinnedge makes his classes fun and engaging and truly cares about his students. We love you JV!!

~ Ms. Lee is always so kind and patient, she is a wonderful teacher and so much fun!

~ Ms. Dutko is a living testament to how kind individuals in this profession can be!

~ Ms. Alford, thank you for being such an awesome lab instructor! You always take the time to go the extra mile and make sure we are feeling comfortable and secure in ourselves!

~ Ms. Smith, thank you for all you do for CCMS behind the scenes that us students don't always see!

~ Ms. Westfall, I have been truly blessed to have you as part of the Admissions Team! You do extraordinary work and always go above and beyond!

~ President Lechner, thank you for your tremendous leadership that you provide to the College. We are truly a different organization because of your vision, commitment, and dedication to the death care profession!

~ Dean Webster is the "go to guy" if you have any questions or concerns at CCMS. He listens and finds a solution!

~ Mr. Ivey makes accounting tolerable, which is a feat in and of itself!



Position Openings:

We are currently hiring for a Director of Business Services. If you or anyone you know may be interested, please visit the website at: <https://www.ccms.edu/about-ccms/ccms-team/positions-available/>



Student Success Stories

Student Spotlight

As current student Joshua Phillips gets ready to walk across the commencement stage this Friday, December 13, 2024, we would like to recognize him for his accomplishments and passion he has for the funeral profession.



Josh served as a crematory operator in the Educational Cremation Center during his time at CCMS, playing a vital role in the center's daily operations. His responsibilities included overseeing the process of cremation and ensuring that all procedures were conducted with the utmost professionalism and respect. Josh's attention to detail and dedication to his work were crucial to the smooth and efficient functioning of the center, which was not only a place of education but also a place where families could find solace during difficult times.

In addition to his primary duties, Josh provided exceptional service to families who chose to be present during the cremation of their loved ones. His compassionate and respectful demeanor helped create a supportive and comforting environment for those in mourning. He understood the importance of the role he played in helping families through such a sensitive and emotional process, and he took great pride in offering them the respect and dignity they deserved.

Josh's commitment to the Educational Cremation Center went beyond his scheduled hours. He frequently volunteered to work weekends and nights, demonstrating his strong work ethic and dedication to ensuring that the crematory operated efficiently, regardless of the time or day. His willingness to take on these extra shifts helped to maintain the high standards of service that the

center is known for, allowing other staff members to focus on their responsibilities without concern for operational disruptions. Josh's contributions were invaluable, and his work had a lasting impact on both the families served and the center itself.

While attending CCMS, Josh has

developed a YouTube Channel

<http://www.youtube.com/@Joshua.Phillips21>

If you visit his channel, you will see that Josh cares deeply about understanding grief and how we all cope with loss. The channel is a space to share thoughts, experiences, and insights about grief and bereavement.

He also recently attended a grief conference in Canada and has shared his experiences below.

“Recently, I had the unique opportunity to attend a grief conference hosted by Julien’s House in Windsor, Canada, with keynote speaker Dr. Alan Wolfelt. Being one of the few from funeral industry, it was an insightful experience for anyone dedicated to understanding and supporting those in grief. Dr. Wolfelt’s Companioning model, which encourages walking beside grieving individuals rather than attempting to “fix” them, offered a powerful shift in perspective on how we approach grief support. This model highlights the importance of patience, empathy, and authentic presence, reframing grief as a journey rather than a problem to be solved.

Throughout the conference, Dr. Wolfelt shared his expertise on grief and bereavement, challenging attendees to reconsider traditional approaches to



Student/Alumni Success Stories

grief care. His sessions encouraged a focus on deep, genuine connections with those who are mourning, and he emphasized that healing comes not from quick fixes but from compassionate, ongoing support. This message resonates strongly within the funeral service field, where the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in someone's life is both a privilege and a responsibility.

Julien's House provided a welcoming environment for those who attended, creating a sense of community among professionals from various backgrounds who share a commitment to supporting individuals through loss. The chance to learn from Dr. Wolfelt, a leading figure in grief counseling, was invaluable, offering practical tools and insights that will enhance my ability to provide empathetic and compassionate care.

For anyone in the funeral industry or in roles involving grief support, this conference was a reminder of the power of compassionate presence. Attending an event with Dr. Wolfelt offers an opportunity to grow in understanding and to reaffirm one's commitment to serving those in mourning. If you ever have the opportunity to experience Dr. Wolfelt's teachings in person, it is a journey worth taking – a truly transformative experience that deepens your perspective on the essential, human role we play in the lives of others."

Julien's House mission is to support, educate and companion individuals through their grief experience.

Alumni Spotlight

Phil Benavides, founder of Remembrance, sent us today's mugshot from Hillsboro, Oregon! Phil and his talented team have created an interactive space to honor our loved ones and our cherished pets. They

know that loss is painful and honoring and sharing the memory of those we love who have died is meaningful. In addition to virtual memorials, Remembrance also offers on-line grief support, allowing multiple ways the bereaved can grieve on their own time, at their own pace, and anywhere they want.



CCMS extends its gratitude to Phil's ongoing commitment to our students. He graciously presents to our CCMS students pursuing their Bachelor of Mortuary Science degree in our Pet Loss course and our Technology in Funeral Service course. Each student gets to create an AR (augmented reality) Memorial for a pet and a loved one that has died so that they may experience first-hand how meaningful virtual memorials are.

Remembrance Pets is launching today! Please visit www.remembrancepets.com for more information. You may also visit www.remembranceplace.com for information about virtually honoring family, friends, and pets

They weren't just a pet

At Remembrance, pets are family.

We spoil them with treats, give them unique voices, and sometimes even dress them up—but most importantly, we love them with all our hearts. When the time comes to say goodbye, their absence leaves a profound void. Yet, the bond we share doesn't

Your loved one was one-of-a-kind

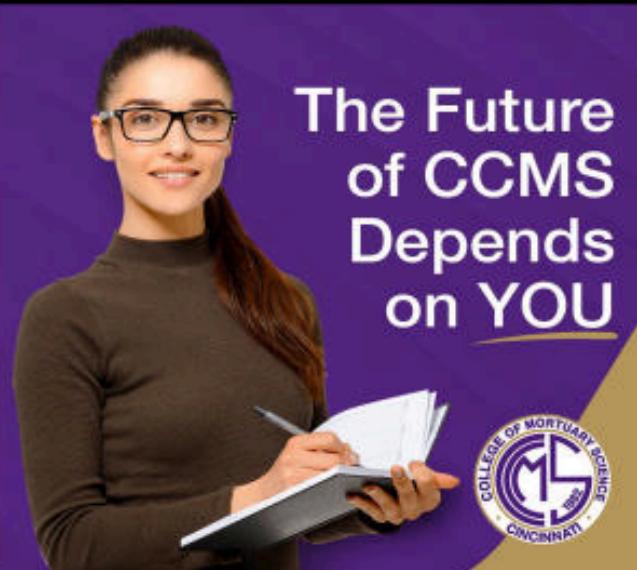
That's why we believe that memorial options should capture their unique spirit rather than adhering to a generic template. While physical memorials provide temporary comfort, they often fail to address the ongoing grief you experience. Imagine looking at their Urn one year after your loss—what emotions would you feel?

That's why we have designed our memorials to be there for you when you need them, offering a meaningful and positive way to engage with the memories of those you have loved and lost.



Alumni News

1882 ALUMNI SOCIETY



The Future
of CCMS
Depends
on YOU

COLLEGE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE
CINCINNATI

As a CCMS alumnus, you know how seriously we take our mission of educating the next generation of funeral service professionals.

That's where you come in!

By joining the 1882 Alumni Society, which honors the rich history of Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science while also paving a way for the future, you won't just be showing your CCMS pride, you'll also be helping us continue to lead the way in death care education.

Click [here](#) to learn more and join!

Charles W. Anderson
Jonathan Brandon
Van Cardaras
Robert B. Cilles
Seth T. Coughlin
Daniel W. Counts
Louis Crow
Ada Jean Fraley
Ron Gard
Marlan Gary
Gene Gompf
William Greaney
Stephen Herget
Tiffany Hill
Brian R. James
Leighann Bayliff Johnson

Jeffrey Keller
Carl Lambert
Linn Hert Geib Funeral Home
Robert S. Lovein
Jodi Ranannee Lucas
John Marsco
Robert Mayhew
Marie McCune
Stephen McCune
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Tyler O'Brien
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Donald O'Guinn, Jr.
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Karen S. Sharpe
David E. Small
Richard G. Snider
Dwanye R. Spence
Gina Lee Terry
Thane Van Liming
Samuel W. Walters 1971
Craig Wise
Jacob L. Wittrock



In Memoriam

James Patrick Flynn
July 26, 1956 - Oct. 20, 2024
Cincinnati, Ohio

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of CCMS Board of Trustees member James Patrick Flynn, a beloved husband, father, and entrepreneur, who left this world peacefully on October 20, 2024, at the age of 68. Jim is survived by his loving wife Christy, his children Paul and Mariana, his stepchildren David (Nina) and Lisa (Andrew), and his grandchildren Marley, Frankie, Mia and Sophia. He is the son of the late Arthur J. Flynn and Mary Ann (nee Kipp) Flynn-Sidenstick, sibling of Tom (Janette) and Paula Flynn Mertes and the late Janet Smith (Flynn).



Jim was a true Renaissance man of remarkable spirit and boundless love. He dedicated his life to building not only a successful career but also a warm and loving family. As the founder of thriving businesses, he inspired many with his passion for innovation and his unwavering belief in the power of hard work. His entrepreneurial journey was marked by integrity and kindness, traits that endeared him to colleagues and competitors alike.

Proudly born and raised in Cincinnati, Jim had deep roots in his community that extended further over the years. He attended Purcell for high school and forged lifelong friendships through the drama club, Queen's Men, that he undeniably held close to his heart. He always made time to show each of his friends how much they meant to him in so many unique ways. He also achieved his masters in economics at the University of Cincinnati. Jim was always the first to offer a lending hand to anyone in need. He cherished his friendships and to friends, family and his personal restaurant reservations, he was lovingly known as "Big Jim Daddy," as was monogrammed on his famous chef coat.

With a diverse collection of interests, hobbies and skills, Jim was the epitome of living life to the fullest. He often spoke of his many cherished years living in Europe and Germany, which shaped his love of culture and travel.

Jim was a man who wore many hats, literally and figuratively. Not only did he build a thriving business from the ground up, but he nurtured it with passion, turning many client relationships into dear friendships. Jim had a knack for knowing something about everything and turning every opportunity into a teachable moment. He was incredibly inquisitive about everything, including airplane flight plans and local history alike. A pillar of the community, he was also a proud Board of Trustee member of the College of Mortuary Science.

Above all, Jim cherished his family. He shared an irreplaceable bond with his wife, Christy. Together, they explored the world, creating countless memories filled with laughter and adventure. They both shared a deep love for music that spanned from jazz to opera. Their travels took them to beautiful destinations. However, it was over leisurely breakfasts, often featuring fresh, flaky croissants, where their love flourished. Jim glowed whenever he spoke of his beautiful bride and took so much pride in being her husband. Whether wandering through the streets of Paris or enjoying quiet moments at home, their deep connection and love was evident to all who knew them.

Jim was a proud and loving father to his children Paul and Mariana, instilling in them the values of compassion, resilience, and curiosity. His adoration extended to his stepchildren, David and Nina, and Lisa and Andrew. He delighted in his grandchildren Marley, Frankie, Mia and Sophia and was lovingly known to them as "Papa" and "Papa Bear". He loved nothing more than gathering his



In Memoriam

family around the table, sharing stories and homemade food, and creating a sense of belonging that will echo in their hearts forever.

His zest for life was contagious, and the sparkle in his eye and his smile could light up even the darkest days. Jim's laughter, wisdom, and unwavering support will be profoundly missed by his family and friends. He leaves behind a legacy of love, adventure, and a reminder to savor the simple joys of life— a shared glass of wine, a perfect Provencal sauce, a stunning sunset, and the warmth of family.

Jim Flynn's spirit will forever remain in the love he shared and the memories he created. May he rest in eternal peace, surrounded by the beauty he cherished in life.

Robert L. Shank, Sr.
May 27, 1934 - Nov. 9, 2024
Perrysburg, Ohio

Robert L. Shank Sr., 90, of Perrysburg, Ohio, died peacefully at home on Saturday, November 9th, 2024. He was a generous, dedicated, hard-working, and determined man. For Bob, funeral service was a life-long calling. He spent over 60 years serving the families of northwest Ohio, retiring at the age of 85.



Bob was born on May 27th, 1934, in Toledo, Ohio, to Cuthbert (Sandy) Shank and Ruby (Meier) Shank. He graduated from Libbey High School in 1952. After working with his parents in his father's grocery store, he pursued a career in funeral service and graduated from Cincinnati College of Embalming in 1956. In 1960, Bob married his bride Clara (Mercer) Shank after being set up by Bob's father Sandy. They had 3 children together. In 1964, Bob and Clara were given the opportunity to

purchase Witzler Funeral Home, which had been serving the Perrysburg community since 1859. This humble beginning led to a successful career in funeral service with the ownership of several funeral homes and cemeteries. He was known for his commitment and dedication to serving the families of Perrysburg and its surrounding towns. His service to the profession included involvement in both state and national governance. In 1980, Bob was elected President of the Ohio Funeral Directors Association. A decade later in 1990, he was elected President of the National Funeral Directors Association. One of his greatest honors was being sent to 9/11 in New York City to assist recovery efforts.

Bob served his country in the Army Reserves and devoted much time and attention to his community. Since 1964, he was a member of Zoar Lutheran Church in Perrysburg, Ohio where he served on several committees. Bob also served as a member of the Perrysburg Board of Education and St. Luke's Hospital Board in Maumee.

Bob loved spending time on Lake Erie fishing for perch and walleye. For more than a decade, he took annual trips to Alaska to fish for salmon and halibut. He enjoyed traveling with his family and was known for his generosity.

Surviving are his children Tamara Shank Harden, Karen Shank Sliter (David), and Robert L. Shank, Jr. (Tonya); grandchildren Morgan M. Shank, Robert L. Shank III, Katrina L. Sliter, Jessica J. Sliter, Jacqueline M. Sliter, and Stephanie K. Sliter; nieces and nephews, and many extended family members. He was preceded in death by his parents, 2 brothers, wife Clara (Mercer) Shank, Son-in-law Robert E. Harden Jr., and many dear friends.



In Memoriam

Cleophus Brown

Nov. 27, 1947 - Oct. 5, 2024

Toledo, Ohio

Mr. Cleophus Brown, 76, passed away peacefully at home Saturday,



October 5, 2024. A prominent figure of the greater Toledo area and loved by so many, Mr. Brown took pride in supporting his community, always doing the right thing, working hard, and having a good time. He was an avid fisherman, bowler, car racer, citizens band radio broadcaster, board game player, gardener, cook, and jokester.

Mr. Brown was born November 27, 1947, in Brickeys, Arkansas to the union of Mr. and Mrs. James R. and Evelyn Brown. He was one of 11 children. In 1949 the Brown family moved to Toledo, OH, and helped establish the Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church, where he has been a member ever since. Mr. Brown was a 1965 graduate of Irving E. Macomber Vocational High School and had close ties to Jesup W. Scott High School. After graduating he served his country in the U. S. Army. In 1968 he graduated from the University of Toledo, later graduating from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1970.

From a young age, Mr. Brown knew that he wanted to be a Funeral Director and Embalmer. Before that dream would come true, he would work multiple jobs. After graduating high school, Mr. Brown worked for the Sun Oil Refinery until a injury at work led to him furthering his education at the University of Toledo. Upon his graduation from mortuary school, Mr. Brown would serve his apprenticeship under the late Mr. Jack Dale at Dale Funeral Home. He would then go and work for T.A.R.T.A. as a Bus Driver to obtain health benefits for his family, while also working on opening his own funeral home. In 1980, the seeds

he planted bloomed, and Mr. Brown and his dedicated and loving wife, Mary Ann Brown, opened The C. Brown Funeral Home, Inc. Mr. Brown would work together with his wife, son, grandsons, father, and brothers, truly establishing a family owned and generational business. With the help of family and friends, Mr. Brown and his funeral home served the black community with excellence for 44 years before retiring and closing in 2024.

Mr. Brown was a proud member of many organizations, including but not limited to, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Amazon Lodge #4, St. Matthew Consistory #24 of 33rd Degree, Who's Who, Toledo Chapter of N.A.A.C.P., and more. He also served as President of the Funeral Directors Association of Northwestern Ohio in the late 1980's.

Mr. Brown was preceded in death by parents, James R. and Evelyn Brown and brothers, Carl L. and Theryn W. Brown and Donell A. Franklin. He is survived by loving wife, Mary Ann Brown; son, Cleophus Brian (Lasonya Ann) Brown; grandsons,

Cleophus Brian, II and Kendell Brison Brown; brothers, Alolson (Sherlon), Fred (Joyce), Marshall J., Calvin, and Alvin Brown; sister, Larshall K. (Curtis) Lee, and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and colleagues.

Eric E. Anderson

Sept. 3, 1969 - Sept. 6, 2024

Lewisville, Ohio



Eric E. Anderson, 55, of Lewisville, Ohio passed away Friday, September 6, 2024 at Marietta Memorial Hospital, Marietta, Ohio. He was born at Bellaire, Ohio on September 3, 1969 a son of the Dorothy Tucker Anderson who survives of Lewisville, Ohio and the late Earl E. Anderson.



In Memoriam

Eric was a 1987 graduate of Skyvue High School, Graysville, Ohio, attended Ohio University Eastern, St. Clairsville, Ohio and graduated from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, Cincinnati, Ohio. He was a licensed funeral director and embalmer in the State of Ohio and was currently employed as an inspector for the Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors.

Eric enjoyed NASCAR, showing American Saddlebred horses, watching his girls, playing volleyball, hunting, restoring the family farmhouse where he lived, was a connoisseur of good food and fine dining and very much enjoyed the aspect of his job that helped bring peace and comfort to families in their time of need.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by his grandparents, William P. and Ruth May Yingling Tucker Jr. and Fred and Mildred Anderson.

Surviving in addition to his mother are his wife, Darcie Carpenter Anderson whom he married on October 12, 1996; two daughters, Korah Kaye Anderson and Klara Kaye Anderson both of the home.

Derric R. Brown
June 22, 1973 - Oct. 27, 2024
Marysville, Ohio



Derric R. Brown, a devoted husband, loving father, and compassionate Funeral Director, passed away on October 27, 2024, at his residence in Marysville, surrounded by his loving family. Born on June 22, 1973, in Paulding, Derric dedicated much of his life to serving others, a lasting impact in both his professional and personal lives. For years, Derric served the community as a caring Funeral Director with Mannasmith Funeral Homes.

His profession was not just a job; it was a calling. Derric believed deeply in supporting families during their most difficult times, offering comfort and assistance with his warm presence and kind heart.

Derric was a proud graduate of Paulding High School in 1991, followed by Bowling Green State University in 1995 and the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1996. These accomplishments reflect not only his dedication to education but also his commitment to his lifelong vocation. He was a compassionate listener and a guiding light for many in the community.

As a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and active participant in organizations such as the Marysville Kiwanis Club, United Way, Ohio Funeral Directors Association, National Funeral Directors Association, and the Ohio Embalmers Association, Derric's spirit of service shone brightly. He coached MBSA and played softball with the Padres from Our Lady of Lourdes, coaching the team from 2006 to 2014. His involvement extended beyond mere participation; he was instrumental in bringing joy and excitement to the community, evidenced through organizing an exhibition softball game featuring the Wounded Warriors.

Derric was an avid fan of the Ohio State Buckeyes, Cincinnati Reds, and Cincinnati Bengals. He often found joy in watching games with his children, Noah and Leah, with whom he made it a priority to be involved in their lives, attending their activities and cherishing every moment spent together. Derric's quick wit, charming smile, and delightful sense of humor made him a beloved figure not just in his family but in the hearts of his friends and those he worked alongside.



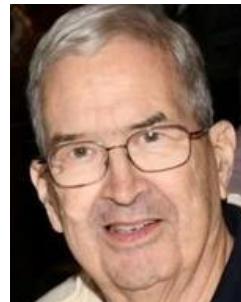
In Memoriam

He is survived by his beloved wife, Deedra (Weaver) Brown; his cherished children, Noah and Leah Brown; his caring parents, Robert "Bob" and Sue (Dobbelaere) Brown; his sisters, Deedi (Mike) Miller and Darsi (Mark) Everson; as well as his supportive in-laws, Mike and Pam Weaver, Angie (John) McLain, and Eric (Jill) Weaver; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Derric's legacy will continue through his family and in the community he so dearly loved. He is preceded in death by his son, Zachary; as well as his grandparents, Gerard "Paps" and Elvene "Nan" Dobbelaere, and Robert and Virginia Brown.

As we remember Derric, we celebrate a man who truly gave of himself unconditionally, a person with a heart of gold who touched countless lives. His laughter, love, and compassionate spirit will forever remain etched in the hearts of those who knew him.

Daryl L. Ingram
May 5, 1949 - Sept. 9, 2024
Marysville, Ohio



Daryl L. Ingram, 75, of Marysville died peacefully on Monday, September 9, 2024, surrounded by his loving and devoted family at Memorial Hospital in Marysville.

He and his family have served the Marysville and surrounding communities for nearly 50 years as the owner/funeral director of Ingram Funeral Home, acquiring the funeral home and business from the William H. Faulkner family in 1973.

He was a 1967 graduate of Fairbanks High School, a 1969 graduate of Clark County Technical Institute and a 1972 graduate of The Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. He holds memberships in the Palestine Lodge #158 F&AM,

Scottish Rite Valley of Columbus, Aladdin Temple Shrine, and the Union County Shrine Club. Most importantly, he currently is a member of the Milford Center United Methodist Church, the church of his youth.

Daryl didn't want to have a lengthy obituary, feeling all those who knew him knew everything there was to tell. His family was the most important part of his life, especially Kathi in putting up with the long hours and him never being on time for meals. As it should be though and is with most, he loved his family deeply and will never be away from them.

During his cancer journey, doctors tried different drugs that were available for the treatment of his type of incurable thyroid cancer. Immunotherapy was tried as one of the last treatments and was tried without success. At one of his doctor's appointments, while the doctor was giving Daryl and Kathi some not so welcome news, Kathi became startled looking out the doctor's office window - two turkey vulcher's had perched themselves on the window sill, in the rain pecking at the window. Daryl responded "This is appropriate!" Knowing the metaphor, they all broke out in laughter. Daryl, with his unfailing sense of humor, knew God thought it was time to lighten the situation.

He was born May 5, 1949 in Columbus to the late Ralph & Mary Curl Ingram. He was also preceded in death by a brother Ron; a sister-in-law Soni; mother- and father-in-law Robert and Wanda Kunce; and a brother-in-law Max Mullis.

Daryl is survived by his wife, the former Kathi J. Kunce, whom he married May 18, 1974 at the Marysville First United Methodist Church by the Rev. Ralph Bauserman; their children Sarah R. and her husband Joe Culver, Christopher L. Ingram, Laura E. and her husband Kelly Thornton; his grandchildren, Jenna, Kynndall, Sophie, Lillie,



In Memoriam

Connor and Kelsey; sister Susan; brother Mike and his wife Elaine; twin brother Steve; sisters-in-law Janet Ingram and Vicki Mullis; a number of nieces, nephews, cousins and their families.

Timothy R. Barnes
Feb. 14, 1942 - Aug. 18, 2024
Athens, Ohio



Tim Barnes passed away at age 82 on Aug. 18, 2024, in New Albany, Ohio. Predeceased by his parents, Woodrow Tribe Barnes and DeEtta Loree Barnes (nee Ice) of Albany, Ohio, he is survived by his loving sister Judith Kehl (nee Barnes) (Richard), nephew Mark (Cathy), niece Wendy (Al), great nephews David and Daniel, cousins, and many friends.

Born and raised in Albany, Ohio, Tim graduated from Albany High School (1960), Ohio University, and the Cincinnati College of Embalming. After mortuary school Tim served with honor in the US Army. He was selected for the sensitive responsibility of official escort of deceased soldiers and assisted families in coping with their losses during the Vietnam War. Tim remained on standby Army Reserve until 1973.

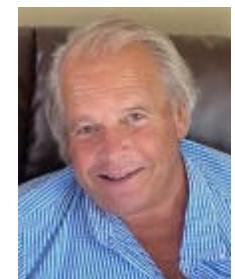
Upon leaving active duty, Tim joined Hughes Funeral Home in Athens Ohio, as a licensed Funeral Director, Embalmer, and Assistant Manager. In 1985 he moved to the Medical Science field at Ohio University (OU) where he served for 18 years as the Director of the Ohio University Willed Body Program, Anatomical Embalmer and educator in the Anatomy Laboratory at OU's College of Osteopathic Medicine. He was known to his students as "Mr. B." and received the University's Standard of Excellence recognition.

Tim also initiated the establishment of the Anatomy Lab at Marietta College.

Beyond his work at the University, Tim was a FEMA-qualified Mortuary Disaster Coordinator, Secretary of the International Society for Plastination, member of the Advisory Board of the Ohio Embalmers Association, and Mortuary Responder and member of the Ohio Funeral Directors Association. He authored numerous articles in professional journals, maintained his Funeral Director and Embalmer licenses, and mentored many mortuary and medical professionals.

A talented musician, Tim played clarinet, piano, and organ, and played saxophone in the OU Marching Band. His many interests included foreign and domestic travel, antique tractors, trains, cars, literature, and local history and he had an unbounded curiosity. He read widely, was an avid Jeopardy fan, and was always ready with the latest joke. Tim was loved by many and respected by all.

Jeffrey W. "Jeff" Sanner
Nov. 26, 1955 - June 30, 2024
West Carrollton, Ohio



Jeffrey W. "Jeff" Sanner, age 68 of West Carrollton, passed away peacefully on Sunday, June 30, 2024, at Kettering Health Network - Miamisburg, surrounded by his loving family. He was born on November 26, 1955, in Dayton, Ohio, the son of the late Doris (Gross) & L. Wade Sanner.

Jeff graduated from the West Carrollton High School Class of 1973 and the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. Mr. Sanner has been a licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer since 1977. He was the Owner & Operator of Sanner Funeral Home in West Carrollton.



In Memoriam

from 1980 to present. He served on the City of West Carrollton Council from Jan. 26, 1988, and then became Mayor of the City West Carrollton from Jan. 1, 2008, to Dec. 31, 2023, with 36 years of dedicated service to the City of West Carrollton.

Jeff served as liaison on multiple boards and commissions. He served as President on the W. C. Community Improvement Corporation since 2008; served as President of the Greater Dayton Mayors and Managers Association from 2012-2013. Jeff enjoyed helping others, serving his community and being with his family. He especially enjoyed a good cigar and a glass of bourbon.

Preceded in death by his parents Doris (Gross) Sanner on Jan. 30, 2022, and by his father L. Wade Sanner on Sept. 11, 2002, and by his father-in-law Chester Winstead.

He is survived by his loving wife of 36 years Leigh Ann (Winstead) Sanner, his cherished daughter Mollie Sanner Whitt and husband Austin, and the lights of his life his 3 beautiful granddaughters Evelyn Grace Whitt, Lydia Faye Whitt and Vivian Leigh Whitt, his sister Geri (Lloyd) Pearson, his 2 brothers Josh (Lorraine Cobb) Sanner, and Sandor "Sandy" (Elizabeth) Sanner, his mother-in-law Sandra Winstead, his 2 sisters-in-law Shelly (Terry) Macduff, and Missy (Todd) Summers, his new puppies Poppy & Rosie, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

John "Jay" Albert Schoedinger
July 29, 1940 - June 26, 2024
Columbus, Ohio



John "Jay" Albert Schoedinger, age 83, passed away on June 26, 2024, after suffering a stroke a few weeks prior. He had his wife, Joyce, by his side holding his hand. He was born in Columbus, OH on July 29, 1940 to John F and Juliet Schoedinger. Jay graduated from The Columbus Academy in 1958, attended The Ohio State University where he was a proud member of Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, and graduated from the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1963. He then began his career at Schoedinger Funeral and Cremation Service. alongside his father, John; uncle, Robert, and brother, David, grew the family business into one of the most respected funeral service businesses in the United States. Jay was a true servant leader serving on numerous charitable and civic boards. He was a proud founder of OMNI, which was a group of funeral professionals from around the country.

He married his college sweetheart, Joyce Rogers on June 22, 1963. Jay is survived by his wife of 61 years, Joyce Rogers Schoedinger; 3 children and their families: Laurie (Gardiner) Porter and their children, Julia Porter and her fiancé Jake Schell and Austin (Jessica) Porter; John "Randy" (Marcy) Schoedinger and their children, Vella, Lydia, and Eva; Scott (Lisa) Schoedinger and their children, Rachel, Philip, and Caroline "CJ;" brothers; David (Jeanne) Schoedinger and Steven Schoedinger; and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



In Memoriam

Shane Decker

Mar. 24, 1974 - Aug. 9, 2024

Morris, IN

Shane Merril Decker, son of Merril and Gloria (Goolsbey) Decker, was born March 24, 1974 in Breckenridge, MN.



Shane grew up in Milnor, ND, and liked to brag that he still holds the school record for single game rushing yards for the Milnor Bison. After graduating from Milnor High School in 1992, Shane attended Mayville State University in Mayville, ND to receive his pre-mortuary education prior to attending the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in Cincinnati, OH. After graduating from CCMS in 1996, Shane moved to Oakes, ND, where he began his career in funeral service at Dahlstrom Funeral Home. It didn't take long to realize that Shane just had the right stuff to become an amazing funeral director, and many grieving families benefited from his influence in their lives.

While Shane was glad to tell you how hard he worked all the time, he somehow still found the time to fall in love with his hometown sweetheart, Deb Larson. Shane and Deb were united in marriage on October 28, 2000 in Milnor, and made their home in Oakes. Their union was blessed beyond measure with two incredible children, Riley and Durgin.

In 2009, Shane decided to make a career change within funeral service and began working as a Regional Sales Representative for Deaton-Kennedy to provide various supplies to funeral homes in a tri-state region. Although Shane proved to be a natural salesman, his change in career involved a lot of time on the road and away from his wife and 2 young kids, so he once again explored his options in the career he loved.

In 2010, Shane, Debbie, Riley and Durgin packed up their belongings and moved to Morris, MN, where Shane resumed his calling as a funeral director at Pedersen Funeral Home and Starbuck Funeral Home. In 2013, Shane became the managing funeral director of Pedersen and Starbuck Funeral Homes. Shane excelled in this new role, and in September 2019, he accepted the position of Regional Operations Director for Vertin Company, the parent company of Pedersen and Starbuck Funeral Homes. Shane has continued in that role since 2019 and was frequently known to tell many people that his Region was the biggest in the company, and it wasn't a coincidence that it was called Region #1. Shane supported, mentored and truly cared for countless people while serving in this role, and he added to his friend total, including people from Montana to Pennsylvania, and everywhere in between.

Shane's story came to a tragic and unexpected end on August 9, 2024 as a result of an automobile accident. Shane is survived by his beloved wife, Deb; his daughter and son-in-law, Riley and Taylor Nohl of Morris, along with their son and Shane's best buddy, Decker Nohl, as well as their second child who will join the family at the end of the month; his son, Durgin Decker of Morris; his parents, Merril and Gloria Decker of Milnor, ND; two brothers: Kellen (Brooke) Decker and their sons, Linkin and Lennox of West Fargo, ND, and Caden (Brianna) Decker and their son, Leon of Milnor; his father and mother-in-law, Ed and Janice Larson of Milnor; two brothers-in-law: John (Lou Ann) Larson of Milnor and Scott (Anne) Larson of Sturgeon Lake, MN as well as numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends. Shane was preceded in death by his grandparents and his uncle, Todd Goolsbey.



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