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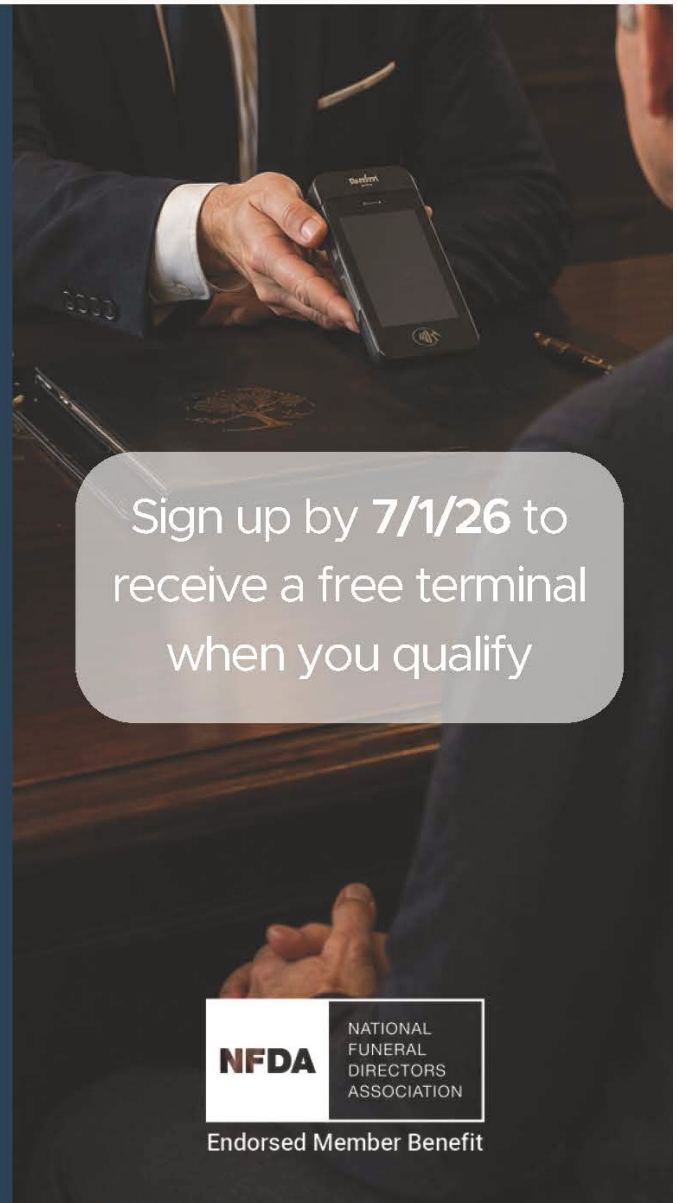
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Missouri Funeral Director

A publication of the Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association

Spring 2026 Volume 20

Missouri Funeral Director

Published by

Missouri Funeral Directors and
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(MFDEA)

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Thank you to the content contributors in this issue.

Share Your Story! Members are welcome and encouraged to share their story or event. Email photos with names and descriptions, along with a story or explanation of event to publications@mofuneral.org.

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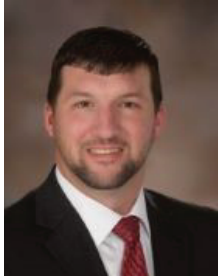
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ABOUT MFDEA

Our mission is to encourage excellence in funeral service, to provide members with exceptional resources and assistance, to represent and protect the common interest of our members, and to educate the membership and public about our profession.

All Missouri Funeral Director & Embalmer Association members have pledged to adhere to a code of ethics that protects consumers, families, and the public. MFDEA members strive to have the highest standards in service, value, and professionalism. Should you ever have any questions about funeral service practices or a concern about how any funeral home may be operating, please call our office at (573) 635-1661.

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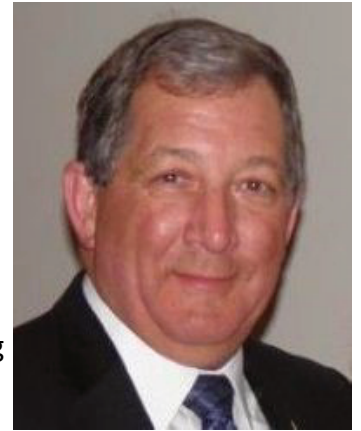
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Message From MFDEA President



Good afternoon, Missouri Funeral Friends,

Hope everyone is enjoying spring. As always, this time of year, MFDEA is working towards the Annual Convention, so let me reiterate some of the upcoming important dates. The convention will be June 13-16, and will be at the University Plaza Hotel in Springfield, MO. Please visit www.mofuneral.org for complete details.

Register soon! This is going to be a great convention! The University Plaza Hotel is a top-rated convention hotel in Springfield. The link to book your room at the discounted rate is on the MFDEA website. **The hotel room deadline is May 22.**

The MFDEA office staff has put a lot of effort to bring in good speakers and interesting programs. **The Attendee registration deadline is also May 22.** And remember, for every 10 MFT contracts, you can receive one complimentary registration.

There are a few activities to register for separately, the Ballgame, Golf Tournament, City tour, and the **Saturday NFDA Cremation Certification Course**. Don't forget to sign up for Vernie's Embalming class when you register. There is limited seating.

Be sure to come prepared to join in the scholarship fundraising auction after the dinner on Monday. Vernie is the Auctioneer and it's always a wild and crazy time. Let the office staff know if you plan to donate an auction item.

One of the big activities is the Cardinals Division II baseball game on Sunday evening. The deadline to get baseball game tickets is May 29. The stadium is just a 5-minute walk from the hotel. As an added incentive, several of the players, traded to the Cardinals last winter are playing in Springfield this summer.

I'm excited to share we have 47 vendors coming to exhibit. There are a few booths still available. If you see or talk to any interested parties just have them contact the MFDEA office.

Let's make the 2026 convention a success! And again, thank you, Don, Cindy and Bobbi.

I hope to see you there!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J. Larry Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

J. Larry Carter

MFDEA



SPONSORS

Many thanks to our fantastic sponsors for their support at the 2026 convention!





MFDEA Executive Report



It's Convention Time!

This year's MFDEA Convention will be in Springfield, Missouri – the first time we have been in this part of the state in a number of years. You can find the full schedule of events in this issue but here are some of the highlights:

Pre-Convention Crematory Operator Certification: This is the official NFDA Crematory Operator Certification Program that has been in big demand throughout the country and will be the Saturday before official convention activities start. While Missouri does not require specific certification many states, insurance companies and corporate operations do, seating limited so sign up now! **NOTE:** As this is handled by NFDA, the cost of the program is not included in the Convention registration, but it's well worth it. Most importantly, you get to put "COO" behind your name on all future name tags!

Big fun on Sunday! We start with the golf tournament that is always a great time with great prizes at a great course. Again, only a limited number can tee-off so get your foursome together. For those that don't golf there will be a tour of weird and wonderful Springfield with a special stop at Bass Pro. That evening, you can sign up to see the Springfield Cardinals play right across the parking lot from the convention hotel. If you have never been to a minor league game before, you are mission out. There will be a VIP suite, food, and beverages. Oh, yes, and a baseball game.

Monday the convention really gets going with seminars, speakers, a fun and informative production on consumer preferences, the MFDEA annual meeting, and our always moving Memorial Service. That evening there will be the opening of the exhibit hall, dinner and the not-to-be-missed live auction. If you have something to donate for the auction, let us know.

Tuesday the exhibit hall will open up in the morning and include round tables on a number of important topics, you can visit one or all of them, ask questions, see hands-on demonstrations and more. We have a wonderful lineup of vendors and sponsors who will be showing off their products and services and is always a highlight of every convention.

After lunch on Tuesday, Vernie Fountain will be giving an embalming seminar that is worth the entire price of the registration fee, so get there early to get a good seat.

And remember, MFT providers who have written at least 10 contracts in the past year get free registration, so no reason not to sign up and join the fun (and learning).

See you in Springfield!

Don Otto

Executive Director



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Meet The UMB Bank Staff For The Missouri Funeral Trust



Darian Carter is an Assistant Vice President with over 10 years of experience in banking and finance. He joined UMB Bank in 2018 and has since developed extensive expertise in financial services, including specialized knowledge in funeral trust administration.

In 2022, Darian began working closely with the Missouri Funeral Trust and is dedicated to its continued growth. He became the Trust Officer & Admin when Vicki Gwin retired in 2024. Outside of work, he enjoys traveling and spending time with his family.

If you have not enrolled in the electronic system, please contact Darian Carter. He will walk you through the steps and answer questions.

All MFT contracts, payments, claims, and inquiries are processed by UMB Bank in Kansas City, MO.

To process a claim, submit the claim to mft@umb.com.

MFT Staff Contact

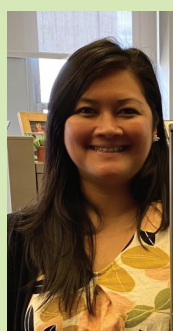


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If you are unable to attend convention, we can always mail your award.

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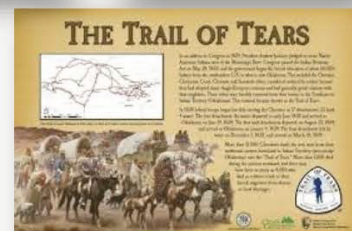
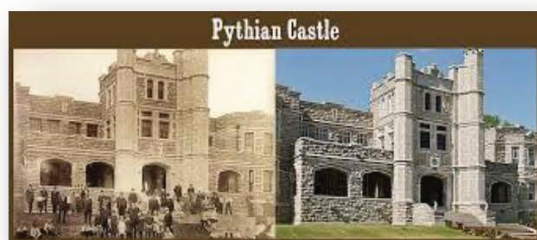
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2026 MFDEA Convention Entertainment Event

Hop Aboard the **City Express Tour** + Bass Pro Shops



Local guide highlights historical places:

- Wild Bill Shoot Out
- Trail of Tears
- North & South
- Railroad history
- Birthplace of Rt 66

Fascinating and Fun!

Cruise through town while hearing about the wild and storied history of Springfield + Bass Pro Shops.

Sunday, June 14 @ 12:45 pm - 3:30 pm

\$30 per person

Bass Pro Shops

The "Granddaddy of all outdoor stores" is the original **Bass Pro Shops Outdoor World in Springfield, Missouri**. Located at the National Headquarters, this 500,000 sq ft location attracts 4 million visitors annually. It features massive aquariums, waterfalls, a boat showroom, and adjacent attractions like the Wonders of Wildlife National Museum.

Our first stop will be to pick up our local expert guide at Bass Pro Shops. If you prefer to visit/shop the entire time there, feel free to spend the next couple of hours doing so. Otherwise, take the city tour while listening to historical, surprising and colorful stories as we tour Springfield. There should be some time afterwards for you to check out a couple of Bass Pro Shops impressive displays.

Purchase event tickets online at www.mofuneral.org.

Reserve early, space is limited. Deadline June 10, 2026.





Springfield Cardinals Minor League Baseball

2026 MFDEA Convention Entertainment Events

Springfield Cardinals play the Amarillo Sod Poodles fresh off their most dominant season from start to finish in franchise history.

The Springfield Cardinals won their 2nd Texas League Championship last season and saw exciting prospects like JJ Wetherholt, Joshua Baez, and Leonardo Bernal explode!

Sunday, June 14 @ 6:05 pm / Gates open 5 pm

\$75/per person includes entry, seating, dinner and drinks



Route 66 Stadium & Hammons Field

An intimate stadium with a chill vibe.

Relax in the executive suite with delicious food, cold beverages, *and* great views!

The stadium is a short 0.02 mile walk from the hotel.

If you prefer to drive, parking lots are available for a fee around the field.

Stadium is a cashless venue with a clear bag policy.

Suite Refreshments

Enjoy the Grand Slam Experience with popcorn, chips and dip, Bavarian Pretzel sticks, Nacho Fiesta Bar, Taco Meat, Hot Dogs, Chicken Tenders, Hammons House salad, Chocolate Chip Cookies, and Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, and water.

Funnel Cake Fries with Caramel, Raspberry, and Chocolate Sauce toppings will be served in the 3rd inning!

Bud Light, Yuengling Traditional, Michelob Ultra, Jacob's Creek Cab and Chard, and Cocktails, will be unlimited through the top of the 8th inning.



Purchase event tickets online at www.mofuneral.org.

Reserve early, seats are limited. Deadline by May 27, 2026.



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Seminars & Speakers

NFDA Consumer Survey 2026 Report, Monday, 9 am - 9:45 am

Learn the latest consumer trends and opinions that can help you shape the future of your funeral home.



A Touch of Hair, No Hat Needed, Monday, 10 am - 11:15 am, Kelly Green, 25 years as an embalmer, hair restoration specialty, 2024 Fountain International Conference speaker, annual speaker at mortuary schools around the United States

A step by step guide to quicker and more efficient hair restoration. Showing examples of small reconstructions, full head of hair reconstructions, as well as facial hair.

Employment Related Liability, Monday, 11:30 am - Noon, Jake Spaniol, Federated Insurance

Employment issues can be daunting. Jake shares resources for owners, managers, and Human Resources, to help avoid pitfalls of employment actions. Reviews hiring practices, termination procedures, and documentation. It also includes resources and tips to help prevent litigation.



Federal Legal News, Monday, 2 pm - 2:45 pm, Chris Farmer, NFDA Legal Counsel

Chris shares the latest news, updates, and changes regarding federal laws and pending bills for the funeral industry. Learn what the National Funeral Directors Association is focusing on and how they represent you in Washington.

Dealing with Conflicts in Funeral Homes, Monday, 3 pm - 3:45 pm, Ron Clyde, FDLIC

There are few settings in society where conflict is more prevalent than in today's funeral home. Families are influenced, confused, and conflicted by rapidly changing societal factors. Learn skills to manage the escalation of conflict and techniques for resolving conflict to provide your families with a meaningful funeral experience.



Process of Laying Veterans to Rest, Monday, June 15, 4 pm - 5 pm

Tony Cupples, Director of MO Veterans State Cemetery

How to lay to rest a loved one in the Veteran's Cemetery; including the process of the ins and outs, along with the eligibility requirements.

Embalming Tips and Post Mortem Reconstructive Surgery Techniques

Tuesday, 1 pm - 5 pm, Vernie Fountain, Fountain National Academy

Master class in reconstructive tools from an international instructor, Post Mortem Reconstructive Surgery Specialist, and world-renowned expert. Limited seating.



Register at www.mofuneral.org. Deadline is May 22, 2026.

Convention Itinerary

Saturday, June 13

NFDA Crematory Operator Course

8 am - 4 pm / 7:30 am registration

Sunday, June 14

Private Course Golf Tournament

8:30 am - 3 pm

City Tour + Bass Pro Shops

12:45 pm—3:30 pm

Springfield Cardinal Ballgame

6 pm - 9:30 pm

Monday, June 15

NFDA Consumer Survey 2026 Report

9 am—9:45 am

A Touch of Hair, No Hat Needed presented by Kelly Green with Peaceful Memories Reconstruction

10 am—11:15 am

Employment Related Liability presented by Jake Spaniol with Federated Insurance

11:30 am—Noon

Awards Luncheon & Business Meeting

Scholarship and Service Awards, Memorial Program

Noon—2 pm

Federal Legal News presented by Chris Farmer, Legal Counsel with NFDA

2 pm—2:45 pm

Dealing with Conflicts in Funeral Homes presented by Ron Clyde with Funeral Directors Life

3 pm - 3:45 pm

Monday, June 15 cont.

Process of Laying Veterans to Rest presented by Tony Cupples, Director of MO Veterans State Cemetery

4 pm - 5 pm

Monday Evening

Tradeshow Expo, Exhibitor Hunt, & Reception

5 pm - 7 pm - Hors d'oeuvres and Cocktails

Dinner Banquet & Live Auction

7 pm - 9:30 pm

Auction fundraiser in support of scholarship program.

Interested in donating an auction item?

Please notify the MFDEA office.

Tuesday, June 16

Tradeshow Expo, Exhibitor Hunt, & Door Prizes

9:30 am - Noon, coffee and continental refreshment

Round Table Talks - 10 am - 11:30 am

- ⇒ MO Vital Records—MoEVR 2.0 System
- ⇒ MO EMS Funeral Response Team
- ⇒ MO Funeral Trust - 100% Easy & Electronic
- ⇒ Funeral Director Life - Succession Planning

Past President Luncheon

Noon - 1 pm

Embalming Tips & Post Mortem Reconstructive Surgery Techniques presented by Vernie Fountain

1 pm - 5 pm

End of Convention.

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About the Course

The recognized certification standard for funeral service professionals, NFDA's Cremation Certification Program covers best practices for safe, proper, and ethical crematory operations, excellence in service to cremation families, and much more.

Attendees will earn upon successful completion of the program the designation of Certified Crematory Operator (CCO).

The Cremation Certification Program is approved for 7 CE hours for IL and KS.

Seminar Presenter: Tim Copeland

MFDEA Convention is offering this course on Saturday, June 13, 2026.

Registration & Breakfast: 7:30 – 8 a.m. | Program: 8:00 – 4 p.m.

Seminar fee includes CCP manual, seminar presentation, continental breakfast and lunch, exam and scoring, CE processing and certificate.

Course fees range from \$165 to \$695. Registration is open until June 13, 2026.

[Rates and Registration](#)

Economic & Market Commentary—April 2026

The first quarter of 2026 began on a constructive note, supported by resilient economic activity and expectations that the Federal Reserve would continue to ease monetary policy through additional cuts. As the quarter progressed, sentiment shifted materially. The late-February escalation in the Middle East and the effective closure of the Strait of Hormuz introduced a major energy shock, disrupting a route that carries nearly 20% of global oil supply. By early April, daily Brent crude prices had reached almost \$128 per barrel after averaging \$103 in March, a stunning reversal from the calm tone that defined the start of the year. What began as a quarter characterized by broadening participation and steady economic momentum ended with markets focused on higher energy costs, renewed inflation pressure, and a much more uncertain policy outlook.

U.S. fixed income markets faced a more challenging environment during the first quarter as rising oil prices and firmer inflation expectations pushed Treasury yields higher across the curve. The 2-year Treasury yield increased the largest degree, from 3.47% at year-end to 3.79% by March 31, while the 10-year Treasury yield rose from 4.17% to 4.32%. As a result, the Bloomberg U.S. Aggregate Bond Index declined 0.05% for the quarter, ending a four-quarter streak of positive returns.

Credit spreads also widened modestly, particularly in lower-quality bonds, as investors grew more cautious about the economic impact of higher energy prices. Unlike periods when bonds benefit from a flight to safety, fixed income offered less downside protection this quarter as markets were reacting more to the risk of inflation than recession concerns.

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Domestic equities moved lower in the quarter, though headline index returns masked a more nuanced story beneath the surface. The S&P 500 declined 4.35%, with much of the weakness concentrated in March as geopolitical tensions intensified and oil prices surged. At the same time, market leadership broadened considerably. Smaller-cap stocks and value-oriented areas of the market outperformed, with the Russell 2000 gaining 0.89% and the Russell 1000 Value Index rising 2.07%, while the Russell

1000 Growth Index fell 9.78%. Sector performance also reflected the quarter’s shifting backdrop. Energy was the strongest area of the market, advancing 37.15% as oil prices moved sharply higher, while technology, consumer discretionary, and financials lagged. The quarter served as a reminder that broader diversification across sectors, styles, and market capitalizations can help reduce the impact of concentrated weakness in the largest growth-oriented stocks, which have generated the majority of returns in recent years.

The Federal Reserve maintained a steady policy stance throughout the quarter, leaving the Federal Funds target range unchanged at 3.50% to 3.75% at both its January and March meetings. In its March communication, the Committee acknowledged that economic activity had continued to expand at a solid pace, while also noting that uncertainty had





increased. Consumer spending also remained constructive, with personal consumption expenditures rising 0.5% in February. In addition, manufacturing activity improved during the quarter, with the ISM Manufacturing PMI rising to 52.7 in March, its third consecutive month of expansion. The Fed's preferred measure showed PCE inflation running at 2.8% year over year in February, with core PCE at 3.0%. The first post-quarter CPI release then showed headline inflation accelerating to 3.3% in March, driven in large part by a sharp rise in gasoline prices. At the same time, the labor market moderated but did not materially weaken, with payroll growth of 178,000 in March and the unemployment rate at 4.3%. The Fed's updated projections continued to imply modest easing later this year, with the median projection pointing to a year-end federal funds rate of 3.4%. Market expectations, however, shifted notably over the course of the quarter. At the start of the year, investors were expecting multiple rate cuts in 2026. By quarter-end, much of that easing had been priced out as higher oil prices and renewed inflation concerns complicated the policy outlook.

The Fed's broader balance sheet approach remained largely unchanged. In March, the Committee continued reinvestment activity designed to maintain ample reserves, signaling continuity in its operating framework rather than any broader shift toward accommodation. As a result, the market's focus remained firmly on inflation, labor market data, and the extent to which higher energy prices might delay future policy easing.

Summary

While the rise in oil prices and the repricing of rate expectations created volatility across both stocks and bonds, the quarter also highlighted the value of diversification, as areas outside the largest U.S. growth stocks held up relatively well. Looking ahead, markets will remain focused on the path of inflation, the persistence of elevated energy prices, and whether economic growth can continue to absorb these pressures without a more material slowdown. The biggest driver of volatility will remain on the resolution of the conflict in Iran, which continues to exhibit negative impacts across the global economy.

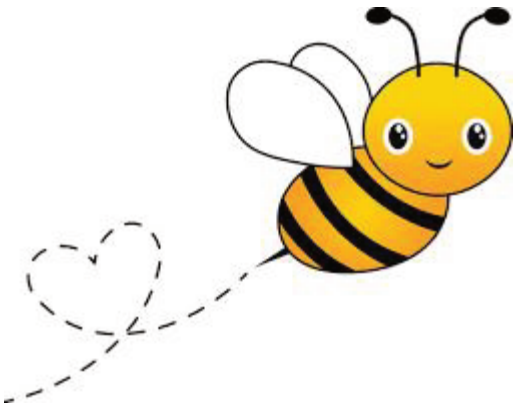
Disclosures

Parkway Advisors, L.P. is an investment advisor registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and provides investment management for the Missouri Funeral Trust. The opinions expressed are our opinions only. Past performance is no guarantee of future performance, and no guarantee is made by this document.

For More Information

We welcome your inquiry and can be reached by mail at Parkway Advisors, L.P., P.O. Box 5225, Abilene, Texas 79608 or by phone at (800) 692-5123 or by fax at (325) 795-8521. A copy of our Form ADV, Part II is available upon request.

TRADESHOW & VENDORS



Buzz! Buzzzz!

Tradeshows create a buzz of excitement in the air. Enjoy the fun while visiting with vendors, fellow funeral directors, and staff.

Tradeshow Hours

June 15, Monday - 5 pm to 7 pm

Cocktails and Appetizers

June 16, Tuesday - 9:30 am to noon

Coffee, donuts & muffins | Round Table Talks

2026 MFDEA TRADESHOW VENDORS:

Federated Insurance, C&J Financial, Wellabe, Genesis Whole Body, Preneed Systems Co, Vault Funeral Tech, SFLIC, Frontier Mortuary Supplies, MO Funeral Trust, MO EMS Funeral Response Team, MO Bureau of Vital Records, Ambulance & Coach, UMB Bank, FDLIC, Mo Dept of Public Safety, Frigid Fluid Co, The Wilbert Group, Intuitive Solution Group, Federated Fiducial, Southwest Professionals Vehicles, Ben Davis Restoration, Midwest Transplant Network, CFL Preneed, Mid States Professional Services, Just Enduring, Lonning Mortuary Services, Aurora Payments, Chicago Cremation Supplies, Funeral Home Gifts, Parks Superior Sales, Global Atlantic Financial Group, Messenger, Homesteaders Life, Mullen Coach, United Heritage Life Ins Co, Kachina Supply, Cherished Candles, Global Urn Co & Thacker Caskets, Matthews Aurora & Dodge, Patriot Piper, MO Casket Distribution, My Remembrance, Thinking Of You, Moon City Mortuary Service, Batesville

Try The Exhibitor Hunt

Add more fun to the tradeshow experience by participating in the free Exhibitor Hunt! You will receive a exhibitor hunt form in your registration packet. Bring it to the tradeshow and visit the booths who are on the list. The vendors will stamp your hunt form. Once you completed your form, return it to the MFDEA welcome desk at the tradeshow entrance. We'll call names from the completed forms we've collected. Listen for your name to see if you are a prize winner!



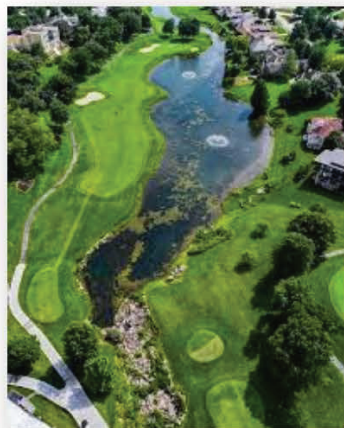


MFDEA Convention Event

Highland Springs Golf Tournament

Highland Springs Country Club

Southwest Missouri's only private gated residential golf course community, Highland Springs Country Club boasts 600 acres of rolling, wooded Ozarks land rich with limestone out-croppings. Founded by developer John Q Hammons, the master-planned community offers a championship golf course and three-story clubhouse.



Course Details

Best in the Midwest, this 18-hole, par-72 golf course is accented with dramatic terrain variations and water, which comes in to play on seven holes. Sand and grass bunkers are strategically placed to enhance the golfing experience.

The golf course is proud to host the PGA Korn Ferry Tour each July for the Price Cutter Charity Championship. The PGA has returned to Highland Springs for over 30 years, a testament to the challenge of the golf course.

Tournament Details

Sunday, June 14, at 8:30 am

Scramble style, longest drive, closest to the pin

Dress code: collared shirts, no jeans

Booking options:

\$165 per person / you'll be assigned to a team

\$660 per team / list player names



Book your spot when you register for the convention at www.mofuneral.org.

Maximum of 32 players. Deadline is June 1, 2026.



Annual Business Dinner



Pres. Trey Kriegshauser, Kayla & Larry Carter



L to R: Trey, John Moore, Kent & Kristy Trimble, Don Otto, guest & Chris K.



Brent Barnes, Greg Bird, and Keisha Davis



Granberry Mortuary staff with Darian Carter, Ozella Foster and Theron Holladay

Legislative Day at the Capitol



Ozella visits Rep Marlene Terry



Trey shares talking points



Chris at Capitol



Ozella & Rep Terry of Dist. 66



Don, Wyatt & Tom Hebner, John Pautz, Ozella, Greg Bird, Brent Barnes, Larry Carter, Trey

MFDEA Services

Preferred Providers

Answering Service

Answering Service for Directors (ASD) was the first answering service to devoted solely to serving the needs of funeral directors and has been family-owned and operated since 1972.

Many funeral directors began using this service at its inception and continue using it today.

ASD maintains the highest degree of professionalism with extensive training, cutting-edge technology and an unmatched level of service.

Contact Lauren Kress at lauren@myasd.com or (800) 868-9950.

Business Insurance

Federated Insurance Cos. is the endorsed MFDEA Preferred Provider for property/casualty, liability and workers' compensation insurance provider.

Federated is recognized as the national leader in partnering with trade association and buying groups and has been endorsed by 29 state funeral directors associations.

The company has more than 100 years' experience providing insurance and risk management services to business owners.

Contact Garret Baker at gpbaker@fedins.com or 573-301-2066.

Credit Card Processing & Payment Collection

Aurora Payments offers a no-fee card processing option, integration with popular funeral software, online payments, and convenient payment links by text for families.

MFDEA members receive the lowest processing rates and the most advanced payment collection technology for increased profitability, efficiency and productivity.

For a quick comparison of rates, to add a new location, or for questions regarding your existing service, please contact Jim Luff at 833-287-6722 or Jim.Luff@risewithaurora.com.

PreNeed Trust

The Missouri Funeral Trust (MFT) was created by funeral directors and owned by the nonprofit organization, Missouri Funeral Directors & Embalmers Association. The goal of MFT is to ensure safety and stability of payments used to fund your preneed funeral plan. No consumer has ever failed to receive the benefit of their pre-need funeral contract with the Missouri Funeral Trust.

Benefits Of Participating in Missouri Funeral Trust

Two Investment Options The Trust offers its

providers two ways to invest their pre-need funds. This allows for diversity and allows each provider to make his own choice.

Easy and Quick Claim Service The preferred method to submit a claim is by emailing mft@umb.com. Death request forms are provided and in most cases, checks are issued within 24 hours.

Contract Fees Yearly contract reporting fees to the Missouri State Board are collected from the purchaser and paid by the Trust to the State on contracts written through the Trust. MFT handles all of the paperwork and fees.

Transfers The Trust offers new providers the option of rolling funds from existing trusts into the Missouri Funeral Trust.

Forms Electronic contracts are the primary method for completing contracts with the exception of contracts written in the field. All forms (pre-need

contracts, statement of goods and services, authorization to embalm, etc.) needed to be in compliance with Missouri Laws concerning preneed are provided at no cost to your firm.

Annual Missouri Sellers Report The Trust is the Seller on MFT contracts and therefore you do not have to file Seller's reports or undergo the Seller's audit on MFT contracts. MFT handles that for you!

Quarterly Reports All providers receive quarterly reports delineating all activity for each contract. This keeps the funeral home well informed on all contract balances.

For questions, or to begin participating in the Missouri Funeral Trust, contact Don Otto at 573-635-1661.

For contract questions contact, Trust Officer, Darian Carter, at 816-860-7027 or darian.carter@umb.com.

MEMBER SERVICES

These services are provided to MFDEA members only.

MFDEA assists funeral homes, commercial embalming establishments, and crematories looking for staff. Post job opportunities on the MFDEA website for 90 days for free. Posts are also included in the Missouri Funeral Director magazine. Using the online MFDEA Job Post can increase applicants and shorten search time. Visit Resources online at mofuneral.org to post jobs and view employment opportunities.

Music Licensing MFDEA members are eligible for low music and webcasting licensing rates. NFDA offers state association members discounts for music and webcasting licenses. This is a considerable discount over the price you would pay to become licensed directly with each agency (ASCAP, BMI, and SESAC). Failure to obtain an annual license may result in substantial fines. Visit Member Resources online at mofuneral.org or call 573-635-1661 for more information.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

To post an ad, email info and contact details to bobbi@mofuneral.org.

Memorial Funeral Home

Posted April 15, 2026

Immediate job opening for a Licensed Funeral Director at Memorial Funeral Home in Columbia, Missouri. Embalming license helpful but not required. Flexible schedule and amazing SCI benefits including vacation time, sick time and paid holidays along with health, dental, vision and many other insurance options.

Apply online at [sci.jobs](#) or call 573-443-3173 with any questions.

Contact: Kent Knudsen or Clay Vogl

Clay Vogl clay.vogl@dignitymemorial.com

Kent Knudsen kent.knudsen@dignitymemorial.com

Parker Mortuary

Posted March 26, 2026

Parker Mortuary in Joplin, Missouri, is looking to hire a full-time licensed funeral director for our busy firm. We are a locally owned mortuary offering a competitive salary, great work schedule with 10 days on and 4 days off (allowing for a 4-day weekend, every other week) and a great group of staff to work with.

Please send a resume to chaddegonia.parker@outlook.com. For more information call Chad at 417-623-4321.

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Promote Your Company, Your Products & Services, and You!

Connect with our members by joining the Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association.

We offer two types of trade memberships— trade firm and trade rep. Each one offers great benefits and money saving opportunities.

Learn more online at www.mofuneral.org/Trade_Membership.

IN MEMORIAM



Dorothy L. Lindley

March 7, 1928 – March 29, 2026

Dorothy L. Lindley, a cherished member of the Chillicothe, Missouri community, passed away peacefully at Hedrick Medical Center, Chillicothe, Missouri on Sunday, March 29, 2026. She was born on March 7, 1928, in Harrisonville, Missouri. Dorothy was a beloved daughter of John Harold Kohler and Dora Isabelle (Beckerdite) Kohler. Dorothy graduated from Harrisonville High School in 1947 and was known for her industrious spirit and community involvement. On April 24, 1949, she married Billy "Jack" Lindley in Harrisonville, Missouri. He preceded her in death on October 25, 2017.

Dorothy was a co-owner of Lindley Funeral Home in Chillicothe, Missouri, where she dedicated many years to serving others with compassion and care. On June 1, 1959, Mrs. Earl Keeney sold her funeral business in Chillicothe, Missouri to Jack and Dorothy Lindley, where they made their home in the upstairs apartment of the funeral home for seventeen years. In expanding the funeral business, Jack and Dorothy acquired Robertson Funeral Homes at Laredo and Chula, Missouri, in 1965 and the Austin Funeral Homes at Hale and Tina, Missouri in 1968.

Dorothy was deeply involved in a variety of organizations that highlighted her commitment to community and friendship. She was an active member of PEO, Red Hatters, Busy Belles, Sorosis, the Livingston County Women's Democratic Club, D.A.R., and the Chillicothe Antique Club. She was a member of The First Christian Church since 1959 and was an active participant of the Fellowship Sunday School Class and the Christian Women's Fellowship. She was also a Mary Kay consultant, bringing joy and confidence to many.

Dorothy is survived by her loving children: Rebecca Ransdell of Kansas City, Missouri; J. Scott Lindley and wife Deborah of Chillicothe, Missouri; Bruce Lindley and wife Susan of Chillicothe, Missouri; and Timothy Lindley and wife Toni of Kansas City, Missouri. Her legacy continues through her ten grandchildren: Michael Ransdell and wife Melissa of Kansas City, Missouri; Christopher Lindley and Vanessa Rocha of Kansas City, Missouri; Candace Daly and husband Chris of Excelsior Springs, Missouri; Carter Lindley of Chicago, Illinois; Connor Lindley and wife Stephanie of Kansas City, Missouri; Mathew Lindley and wife Jennifer of Chillicothe, Missouri; Jonathan Lindley and wife Ashley of Milwaukee Wisconsin; Thomas Lavi and wife Sormeh of Fremont, California; Taylor Lindley and Fiancé Dillon Kramer of Kansas City, Missouri; and Trent Lindley of Kansas City, Missouri. Dorothy was also blessed with nine great-grandchildren: Codi and Britton Ransdell of Kansas City, Missouri; Layla, Julian, and Jones Daly of Excelsior Springs, Missouri; Murphy Jean Lindley of Kansas City, Missouri; Scarlett and Jack Lindley of Chillicothe, Missouri and Nasim Lavi of Fremont, California. She was also preceded in death by her parents, five brothers: Guy, Donald, Neal, Johnnie, and Eugene Kohler and her sister, Hazel Clegg.

Funeral services were held at the Lindley Funeral Home, Chillicothe. www.lindleyfuneralhomes.com.



Samuel S. Stipanovich

June 7, 1935 – March 10, 2026

Baptized into the hope of Christ's resurrection, Tuesday, March 10, 2026.

Beloved husband of 68 years of Margaret Elaine Stipanovich (nee Ortmann); dear father and father-in law of Ted (Shelly), Steve (Terri), Mike (Janice) and Joan Stipanovich; loving grandfather of Ted (Erin), John (Katie), Adam (Kim) and Alexandra Stipanovich, Mari (Nick) Bradford, Katie (Seth Putnam) Stipanovich, Kelli (Justin) Donat, Sadie (Cole) Montgomery, Hannah (Tim) Anderson, Emma and Luke Stipanovich, Nick (Taylor) Stipanovich, Matt (Katie) Stipanovich, Paige (Ryan) Corrigan, Sydney (Aaron) Howell, Ryan Stipanovich, Bradley (Stephanie) Stipanovich and Brianne (Alec) Ramsdell; loving great grandfather of Samantha, Sophie, Teddy, Maggie, Will, Gabby, Brayden, John

Jr. "JJ", Eli, Casey, Colton, Miha, Olivia, Memphis, Dominique, Davy, Henry, Hattie, Theo, Noah, Nora, Molly, Cal, Collins, Jack, Will, Carson, Chase and Evelyn; dear brother of the late Martha (late Leonard) Davidek and the late Ted (Dee) Stipanovich; our dear brother-in-law, uncle, cousin and friend of many.

IN MEMORIAM

Born in Youngstown, Ohio to Theodore and Sadie (Visnich) Stipanovich, Sam was raised with strong family values. He received a basketball scholarship to attend Saint Louis University, where he met the love of his life, Margaret Elaine Stipanovich. They married on June 8, 1957, and Sam joined his father-in-law in the family business, dedicating his career to serving others during their times of loss. He became the owner of Ortmann Funeral Home and Ortmann Stipanovich Funeral Home, where he faithfully served families in the community for many years.

Sam enjoyed fishing, golfing, and following sports, but his greatest joy and proudest accomplishment was his family. He attended countless sporting events and recitals of his kids and grandkids throughout the years, always providing praise and advice to their performances.

Visitation at the Ortmann Stipanovich Funeral Home, Creve Coeur.



Carolyn Sue Basler

September 15, 1947 - March 3, 2026

Carolyn Sue Basler, 78 years old, of Ste. Genevieve, Missouri, passed away on March 3, 2026.

She is survived by her loving sons, Shawn (Shkendie) Basler, Eric (Julie) Basler, and Keith (Annie) Basler; and by her cherished grandchildren, Alia & Anisa Basler; Luke, Karlie & Nate Basler; Colton & Chloe Basler.

She was preceded in death by her father, Howard D. Schumer; her mother, Edna N. (Vasterling) Schumer; and her beloved husband, Leo C. "Chipper" Basler Jr.

Carolyn had a deep love for life and treasured every moment spent with those closest to her. She found great joy in traveling and especially cherished time with her family and friends. Her sons, daughters-in-law, and beloved grandchildren were the center of her world and her greatest source of pride and happiness.

A faithful and dedicated member of her community, Carolyn belonged to the American Legion Auxiliary, the VFW Auxiliary, and Ste. Genevieve ARC. She served her community as a licensed funeral director for 53 years. Alongside her husband, Chipper, she proudly owned and operated Basler Funeral Home, providing compassionate care and guidance to countless families.

Simple and private by nature, Carolyn was a loyal and devoted friend to many. She loved sports and rarely missed her children's and grandchildren's events, always cheering them on with pride and unwavering support.

Though her passing comes as a great loss, Carolyn is now reunited with her beloved Chipper. She leaves behind a legacy of dedication, kindness, and enduring love and will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Visitation was held at Basler Funeral Home in Ste. Genevieve.

Online condolences at www.baslerfuneralhome.com.

NFDA

NATIONAL
FUNERAL
DIRECTORS
ASSOCIATION

ADVOCACY

SUMMIT

APRIL 15 - 17, 2026



The annual NFDA Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C., is where members turn commitment into action. It's an opportunity to sit face-to-face with elected officials and explain – directly and personally – how their decisions affect funeral service professionals, the families you serve and the communities that rely on you.

NFDA Policy Rep, Greg Bird, represented MFDEA in April.

Photos taken by Greg Bird.

Top—United States Capitol in background

Right—wreath laying, Arlington National Cemetery

Below left— Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Below right—flowers at the tomb



Missouri Funeral Directors & Embalmers Association

CONVENTION & EXPO



JUNE 13 - 16, 2026 | Springfield MO



It's Time To Register!

Convention Hotel

Springfield MO

University Plaza & Convention Center

\$119 per night

Seminars & CE Credits

Informative talks by experienced industry leaders.

Come early for the popular NFDA Crematory
Operator Certification program.

Continuing education credits available for IL & KS.

Fun & Networking

Sunday Funday! Springfield Cardinals ballgame,
City Tour + Bass Pro Shops, and Golf Tournament.

Cruise the tradeshow! Friendly vendors, new stuff,
gifts and giveaways!

Register now!

www.mofuneral.org

See you there!