WVFDA Fact Line October 2023

A Publication of the WV Funeral Directors and Crematory Operators Association



From Your WVDCOA President Randy Parsons

The days are shorter, the leaves are changing, and the temps are dropping; we know that Autumn is on the way! Unfortunately, we know what comes next! To quote from a poem by Grayson Peterson, "The seasons do change, like a well-rehearsed song, no one season stays, no not for too long". Just like our seasons, today's world is a continual whirlwind of change, and our industry is certainly not exempt! I had the privilege this summer to represent West Virginia and the WVFDCOA at the NFDA Leadership Conference in June, and the NFDA International Convention in September. During these events, new ideas and products are presented that can help navigate the currents and put our firms in a better position to provide for the needs of our consumers. I am not a big fan of change, but I always try to keep an open mind and give new ideas a chance. I am also from the school of thought that although it may not work for me, it might be just what your firm needs and will serve you well.

In the face of continual change, I believe that some things need to stay the same. For the sake of shortening this up a bit, I will focus on two. First, our passion to serve and care for our families must always remain our driving force. If that focus slips, everything we do will suffer. Second, our commitment to our profession and our colleagues must be unwavering. Our association plays a big role in keeping us together and helps to promote networking and mutual aid for our members. We must continue to do all we can to see our association grow and become stronger for the future, while at the same time never lowering our professional standards and expectations.

So, have a wonderful West Virginia Autumn season, and if you ever need to talk with me, my line is just like yours, "always open" - (304) 541-7244.



NFDA Convention 2023 Las Vegas, Nevada Rob Kimes, Tom Nichols and Randy Parsons



Cremation Certification Program Registration is OPEN

Pre-Registration is required. No same day registrations. The link has been sent out by email to Association members.

Due to high demand, please RSVP by November 17, 2023, to ensure we have an adequate room, seats and meals for everyone registered. Please register for the CCO class so you will receive correct certification. The class will be held in Charleston, WV on January 24, 2024.

This class is now a requirement if you are the Licensee in Charge at a WV funeral establishment, per law change in 2022. All LIC's must comply with this by June of 2024.

Please call Rob with any questions at 304-345-4711.

Certified Crematory
Operators Class

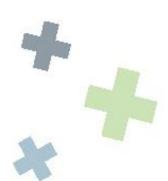
January 24, 2024 Charleston, WV



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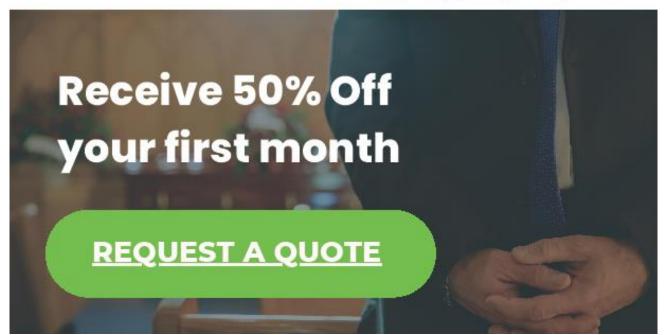
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In Loving Memory of Charles Greco

Charles F. Greco, 88, of Murrells Inlet, SC, formerly of Fairmont and Weirton, WV husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle and esteemed member of the funeral service community, passed away on Saturday August 12, 2023, in Murrells Inlet, SC. His first wife, Patty will no doubt greet him with class and dignity, with the words, I could have told you...

Charles was born in Fairmont, WV, on December 19, 1934, one of two children born to Anthony "Tony" and Martha "Virgina: DiCea Greco.

Charles graduated from East Fairmont High School in 1952. He had a passion for the Weirton community, and his journey in life was filled with kindness, success, and a profound commitment to helping others in their times of need. He would always say "Throw away your watch and take care of the people."

In his early years, Charlie hitchhiked to Weirton, WV, at the encouragement of Dr. Ray, Victor, Johnny and Joe Greco. There, he started his career at Hertnick's Funeral Home driving the ambulance and service car, in the Summer of 53. It was at Hertnick's Funeral Home that he met Joan Patricia "Patty" Hertnick, whom he married on August 25, 1956. Together, they raised two daughters and a son and were blessed with two grandsons, three granddaughters, and a great-granddaughter.

Driven by a desire to serve, Charles pursued higher education, graduating from West Virginia University and continuing on as a graduate of the Class of 1958 Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. Alongside his devoted wife Patty, they became the owners and operators of the Greco Hertnick Funeral Home for over 40 years. Under their care and guidance, the funeral home has become an institution in the community, standing for over a century in Downtown Weirton. Their legacy continues through their son, John, who now owns and operates the funeral home and crematory.

In addition to his work in Weirton, Charles owned the Bavington Inn in Bavington, PA. He also expanded his contributions to the funeral service profession, acquiring and managing the Lynch Stacy Greco Funeral Home in Clarksburg, WV. His dedication to the funeral profession extended to his role on the West Virginia Board of Funeral Service Examiners, where he served for 17 years, even holding the position of President of the board. Charles was appointed to the board by 3 West Virginia Governors Moore, Rockefeller, and Caperton. He also achieved the prestigious distinction of being the first West Virginian to serve as President of the International Conference of Funeral Service Examining Boards and the American Board of Funeral Service Education. His firm was invited to join the National Selected Morticians in 1971. The funeral home has been honored with this distinction for over 50 years.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Charlie will be remembered for his generosity, warm smile, and easygoing spirit. He cherished the company of his friends, sharing countless meals and conversations with them. Whether it was going to breakfast, lunch, or dinner, he treasured every moment of camaraderie with friends like George Huxie – Sarge Mergen, Jimmy Zerkle, John T. Grossi, Bill Marino, Tom Sessi, Chas Marino, Romie Castelli, Don Gianni, Andy DiFonzo, Ed Klee, Emmanuel Starvaggi, Jeff Jezierski, Morris Chijner, Lenny Shaw, Chappy Ballato, Al Lauttamus, Nick Hawley, and Richard Wilburn, just to name a few.

Charlie's life was one of dedication to his friends, and the communities he served. He was always concerned about the funeral home. His daily calls to his son John would always start out with "You busy" and end with "I love you all." His presence will be deeply missed, but his legacy of compassion, service, and camaraderie will continue to shine brightly in the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Charles is survived by his daughters, Mary Zick (Jeff) and Michelle Gallaway (Walt), and his son John Charles (Susan) Greco. He also leaves behind his grandchildren W. Michael (Michelle) Bettinazzi, Elle M. and Eliza P. Greco, Jeffry, and Katerina Zick, and his great-granddaughter, Olivia; his sister, Anna Marie Durham; his spouse of the last 15 years Faye Powers and their beloved dog Franklin; his nieces, nephews many cousins.

Visitation will be 5-7 PM Wednesday and 3 - 7 PM Thursday at the Greco Hertnick Funeral Home 3219 Main Street Weirton, WV.

His funeral will be held at 10 AM Friday at Saint Paul's Roman Catholic Church in Weirton.

He will be laid to rest with his family at Saint Paul's Cemetery.

His children and grandchildren thank Debi McKenzie, Myrlee Powers and Richard Wilburn for all the love and care they gave to our father and grandfather during his time in South Carolina and with his recent illness.

In memory of Charlie, please go out and enjoy camaraderie with your friends, buy them breakfast, lunch, or dinner.



Charles F. Greco 1934-2023

In Loving Memory of Hubert Paul Compton

Hubert Paul Compton, 77, of Huntington, WV, faithful husband, caring father, passed away Thursday, August 17, 2023 at home after a brief illness. Funeral services will be conducted at 11:00 am Monday, August 21, 2023 at the Reger Funeral Home, Huntington, WV by Doctor Keith Wiebe and Pastor David Brokke.

Burial will be at 1:00 pm Tuesday at the Maplewood Cemetery, Elkins, WV.

Hubert was born May 19, 1946 in Montrose, WV a son of the late Edward Ray Compton and Vita Augusta Poling Compton Kelley. He was a 1964 graduate of Elkins High School, attended West Virginia University and was a 1969 graduate of The Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. He served his apprenticeship at the Fred L. Jenkins Funeral Home in Morgantown, WV and after graduating returned home where he worked at the John Lohr Funeral Home in Elkins before moving to Huntington in March of 1971 to work at Chapman's Mortuary until 1993. In April of 1993, he went to work for the Reger Funeral Home where he would finish his more than 50 years as a funeral director assisting and caring for families until his retirement in January 2020. On October 18, 1970 he married Ellen Conrad who preceded him in death on March 17, 2016. They were blessed to be able to spend 45 plus years together, along with their children, son David Paul Compton and daughter Rebecca Ellen "Becky" Compton, both of Huntington. He along with his family provided care for his wife, mother and his in-laws before their passing. He was a member of Grace Gospel Church and the West Virginia Funeral Directors Association. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepfather Elim H. Kelley, his in-laws Wilson H. Conrad and Mayme Gimmel Conrad, a sister and brother-in-law Mary Lea and Johnny Nelson, a sister Margaret Catherine Bounds, a niece Barbara Susan Nelson and his two faithful companions Teddy and Pennington. In addition to his children, survivors include a sister-in-law Doris Conrad of Hagerstown, MD, a brother-in-law Bob Bounds of Port St. Lucie, FL, nieces and nephews include Janet and Jacques Williams, Jane and Ray Francis, Bob Bounds, Rachel and John Fabrizio, Dan Bounds, Michael Conrad, Mark and Becky Conrad, Melissa Conrad, several great nieces and great nephews, his caregiver Sara Swann and his "grand dog" Spencer. Friends may call from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm Sunday at the Reger Funeral Home, 1242 Adams Avenue, Huntington, WV. The family wishes to thank the many doctors and their staffs who treated Dad for all of their care and kindness. Also, to the entire staff and volunteers of Hospice of Huntington. Contributions may be made to Grace Gospel Backpack Ministry, 1111 Adams Avenue, Huntington, WV 25704 or Hospice of Huntington, 1101 6th Avenue, Huntington, WV 25701.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.regerfh.com.



In Loving Memory of Dewey Smith Hastings

Dewey Smith Hastings, 97, of Morgantown, died Thursday, September 7, 2023 at Sundale Nursing Home in Morgantown. He was born September 10, 1925 in Morgantown, a son of the late George Dewey and Jeannette Elizabeth (Smith) Hastings.

He was raised on a dairy farm, owned and operated by his family. He graduated from Morgantown High School and was attending West Virginia University when he joined the United States Army Air Force and served during World War II. After his honorable discharge in 1945, he began serving his two year apprenticeship as a funeral director and embalmer at a local funeral home in Morgantown. Upon completion of his apprenticeship, Dewey attended the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science in Pittsburgh, PA, graduating in 1949 and was a member of the Pi Sigma Epsilon Honorary. Returning to Morgantown after graduation, he married a local girl, Mary Nichols and resumed his work.

With the help of his family, Dewey and Mary purchased the Hardigan property in Morgantown, the site of the first Morgantown hospital. They established Hastings Funeral Home on February 15, 1952.

He was a faithful member of Spruce Street United Methodist Church. Dewey was a member of several civic and fraternal organizations including the Phi Delta Theta fraternity at WVU, Sons of Italy, Sons of the Revolution, IOOF #10 as a 70+ year member, WV Farm Bureau, and Rotary International as a Paul Harris Fellow. Professionally, he was past president of the WV Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association from 1985-86 and was a longtime member of NFDA.

He is survived by his two sons, Edward Daniel Hastings, Dewey Samuel Hastings; three grandsons, Matthew Daniel Hastings, Grant Smith Hastings, and Ted Andrew Hastings; two granddaughters, Mary Elizabeth Hastings and Jennifer Ann Hastings; brother, Robert Hastings and his wife Carol; sister in law, Marcia Nichols; and several nieces and nephews, including Andy Pickering, Paula Pickering, Tim Hastings, Rob Hastings, Kimberly Nichols Goodman, Edward Bartow Nichols, Leigh Nichols Turner, Claudia Nichols Bays, Monica Nichols and Andrea Coleman.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 72 years, Mary Stella Hastings and his sister, Margaret Peggy Hastings and her husband, Richard "Dick" Pickering.

The Hastings family would like to thank the administration and staff at Sundale Nursing Home and special friend Donna Darby for their excellent care.

Friends and family will be received at the funeral home he founded, Hastings Funeral Home, 153 Spruce St., Morgantown on Monday, September 11, 2023 from 2-5 PM. Visitation will continue at the WVU Erickson Alumni Center, 1 Alumni Drive, Morgantown, on Tuesday, September 12, 2023 from 4-7 PM and again on Wednesday, September 13, 2023 from 10 AM until the time of the funeral service at 11:00 AM with Rev. Bart Thompson officiating. A family committal service will take place at East Oak Grove Cemetery with full military rites being conducted by VFW Post #9916, #548, and the United States Army.

Donations may be made to Morgantown Hospice, 3596 Collins Ferry Road, Suite 250, Morgantown, WV 26505 or to St. Ursula Food Pantry Outreach, P O Box 18, Pursglove, WV 26546.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.hastingsfuneralhome.com



We have several firms through out the state looking for Funeral Directors and Apprentices.

Please reach out to Rob if you have interest.
kimesrob@yahoo.com
304-345-4711



FROM THE DESK OF ROB KIMES, WVFDCOA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we embrace the arrival of fall, a season marked by transformative shifts in nature, we also recognize the significance of change within our profession. While our daily responsibilities revolve around caring for our client families and managing the operational aspects of our businesses, there are broader changes that affect the way we conduct funeral service today and in the future. As your Association, we are committed to staying informed about these developments and advocating on behalf of our members and the funeral service profession.

In this October 2023 newsletter, we would like to draw your attention to two entities that play a pivotal role in shaping the landscape of our profession: the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) and the West Virginia Board of Funeral Service Examiners (WVBFSE).

Addressing Concerns with the OCME:

We have been receiving a steady stream of concern from our members and the public regarding the OCME. Issues such as the time it takes to obtain a completed death certificate from the OCME and the condition of deceased remains upon release to the funeral home have been raised. As your Association, we have taken steps to address these concerns.

Initially, we communicated our concerns to the OCME, seeking solutions. Unfortunately, their response consisted of explanations for the issues but lacked concrete answers on how to rectify them. Subsequently, we approached our legislative representatives, including Delegate Amy Summers, the committee chair for Health and Human Services, and Dr. Sherri Young, who oversees the OCME and Vital Records within the DHHR division. These discussions have allowed us to share our challenges and explore potential corrective measures.

One proposed solution involves establishing an enforced policy for a standard of minimum care of remains, which could significantly reduce issues that funeral homes encounter when preparing the deceased. However, addressing the delays in receiving completed death certificates, some of which have been outstanding for over a year, will require more substantial changes, including the implementation of contingency plans to ensure timely processing. I have been invited to present these issues to the Legislative committee during the October interim session, and I will keep our members updated on any developments.

Changes within the WVBFSE:

The West Virginia Board of Funeral Service Examiners (WVBFSE) plays a crucial role in regulating our profession in the state. In 2022, legislation was passed to introduce a funeral director-only license, permit alkaline hydrolysis, and introduce additional certifications. Subsequently, the WVBFSE was tasked with developing guidelines for the funeral director-only license, amending the code and rules regarding alkaline hydrolysis, and defining education requirements for licensees in charge.

These tasks were incorporated into the guidelines of our profession, with governing rules being passed on April 1, 2023. However, in recent board meetings, there have been discussions about additional changes, ranging from altering the board's name to adjusting administrative fees and fine structures for violations. Of particular concern are proposals related to the presence of a funeral director at funeral services and committal services, with the concept of "general supervision" being introduced. This term implies that a licensed funeral director need not be physically present at these services, as long as they can be contacted.

Furthermore, there are proposed changes related to whether apprentices must be full-time employees of the funeral home during their apprenticeship and whether a funeral director in charge must be a full-time employee of the firm they oversee. These changes could potentially lead to the emergence of "rent a licensee in charge."

It's important to note that while some proposed changes seem routine, others could have a profound impact on our profession. These proposed changes have been discussed at WVBFSE meetings but have not yet been board-approved for submission to the Legislature. We encourage all members to stay informed about the decisions of our licensing boards to ensure that our collective interests are safeguarded.

Website Updates:

We are pleased to announce updates to our website, with ongoing improvements planned to enhance your experience.

Upcoming Certified Crematory Operator Class:

Don't forget about the Certified Crematory Operator class scheduled for January 24, 2024, in Charleston. Registration will close on November 17th to allow us to make adequate preparations for meeting space and catering.

As we navigate these changes together, rest assured that your Association remains dedicated to safeguarding the interests of our profession. Should you have any questions or require further information, please feel free to contact our office at 304-345-4711.

Wishing you a pleasant and productive fall season.

Respectfully,





Thank You Consolidated Funeral Services, Inc. for updating our Association Website!

Make sure to check it out! www.wvfdcoa.org

Check them out for all of your website needs!



Left to Right: Michael Talbott, Jordan Fenner, Randy Parsons, Chad Akers, John Greco

Like Us on Facebook for all of your up to date Association information!

@wvfda





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John Greco – President Elect

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Telephone: 304-748-3219

Jordan Fenner - Vice President

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Telephone. 304-237-3201

Michael Talbott – Secretary Treasurer

Talbott Funeral Home 56 N Bradenburg St Belington, WV 26250 Telephone: 304-823-1401

Chad Akers – Immediate Past President

Akers-James Funeral Home 400 Main Avenue Logan, WV 25601 Telephone: 304-752-4550





Continuing Education Information

All CE class certificates for 2023 will need to be loaded into CE broker by December 30, 2023 for you to receive credit.

Class information will be deleted from the system on December 31, 2023 and credits will not be available for upload after this date.



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nfda.org/rememberingalife



WVFDA - PAC

Please contribute to the PAC now, so we can continue the successes we have had in the past.

Your contribution should be sent

to:

WVFDA—PAC 400 Allen Drive Suite 20

Charleston, WV 25302
All contributions should be in the form of a personal check as corporate checks are not allowed. (This information is intended for Association members only, and all contributions are voluntary. Nonmembers, please disregard.)



Death Notice Policy

It is the policy of the Association to send a notice of death of a member or their immediate family (spouse, child, parent) by email **immediately** after we are contacted and the necessary information is provided to us.

All death notices received by the Association are placed in the next newsletter and each person is remembered at our annual "Service of Remembrance." Notices received after our Annual Convention Program goes to print will be remembered the next year. We need your help since we are not always contacted regarding the death of a member or their immediate family. There have been instances where we were told three to six months later in some cases and it has created hard feelings. It is much better for us to receive several calls as opposed to none.

Please help us by calling the Association office as soon as the information is available for us to send out.

WVFDA Mission Statement

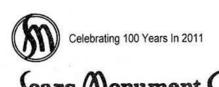
WVFDA's mission is to serve its members and the public by furthering the profession of funeral service through enhanced educational opportunity, involvement in the public and private areas, and development of communications with its membership and all involved with the profession.

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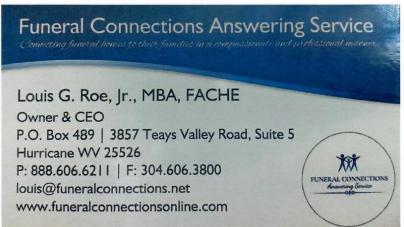
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We wish to thank those companies who have placed a business card advertisement in our newsletter. Your support of our Association is appreciated

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President

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