

Local Events

Oregon Mortuary & Cemetery Board Meetings

2019 Meeting Dates

Tuesday, April 9th
Tuesday, July 9th
Tuesday, October 8th

Please note:

Meetings will typically be held at the State Board Offices at 800 NE Oregon St, Suite 430 in Portland at 9 AM.

For official location information, you can contact the OMCB at 971.673.1500

Funeral Service Practitioner & Death Care Consultant Exam Schedule

(Exams Held At The Portland State Office Building)

TBA

OFDA Events

2019 Convention
April 29th-May 1st
Location TBA

National Events

February 2019

22-24th
NFDA

2019 NFDA Cremation Conference
TradeWinds Island Grand Resort
St Pete Beach, FL

April 2019

2-6th
ICCFA

ICCFA Annual Convention & Expo
Charlotte Convention Center & The Westin Charlotte
Charlotte, NC

3-5th
NFDA

NFDA Advocacy Summit
Mayflower Hotel
Washington DC

12-14th
NFDA

2019 Professional Women's Conference
Hotel Annapolis
Annapolis, MD

July 2019

20-25th
ICCFA

ICCFA University
Fogelman Executive Center
University of Memphis
Memphis, TN

October 2019

27-30th
NFDA

2019 Annual Convention & Expo
Chicago, IL

Features

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The Communicator

January/February 2019

Changes to Death Certificate Issuance

Reprinted from an OVERS Press Release, December 2018

Change: Effective December 31, 2018, Funeral Home users can start a death record without entering the date of birth.

What This Means: Under the **Death Start/Edit New Case** page, the decedent's date of birth is no longer required to start a death and initiate the 24-hour status in OVERS record in OVERS. This update will expedite the start a case process as date of birth is not always available upon receipt of the body.

The following information is still required to begin the death record:

- Decedent's First Name
- Decedent's Last Name
- Date of Death
- Sex
- Place of Death

The decedent's date of birth is required to verify the Social Security Number and sign the record. Users can enter the decedent's date of birth any time after they start the record.

If you need any assistance, please call the OVERS Help Desk at 971.673.0279.

Published bi-monthly
by the
Oregon Funeral
Directors Association
12725 SW 66th Ave.
Suite 105
Portland OR 97223
(503) 639.1186

Portions of this newsletter
are taken from other
sources and may not
represent all available data
or be complete statements.
An attorney or accountant
should be consulted on any
legal or tax matters.
Conclusions are based on
our best analysis of
industry information
sources.

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President's Letter

Dear Colleagues,

While getting to know our new grandson in Florida, I visited a couple of Funeral Homes. One in particular seemed to always have a full parking lot - upon entering I discovered why immediately. The anteroom next to the vestibule had been turned into a large wine cellar! There must have been 1000 bottles of wine nestled in racks covering one wall, a few standing tables and several couches with writing table arm rests. It is the most sought after wine bar in a town full of east coast retirees.

Arrangements, memorial services and post funeral service gatherings are simply more appealing in a wine cellar! It proves a really creative idea has turned a "Morgue" into a non-confrontational funeral home. In an environment of diminishing returns we need to look at ourselves, our staff and our environments to provide a magnetism of attraction. Our society simply doesn't see value as they did thirty years ago. It is ok to evolve. I encourage all of you to boldly project your best image.

I am looking forward to seeing ALL of you at our 2019 OFDA convention on the coast!

A toast then, to all of you!

Jerome Daniel
OFDA President

Executive Director's Letter

We are well into the beginning of 2019 with the legislature in session, people getting their taxes prepared and all of us hoping for a great year in many ways.

The OFDA is working to finalize the 2019 annual convention dates and location. We have experienced some unexpected changes with hotels and that is slowing the process. I am hopeful we will complete everything in the next 2 weeks. Once complete, we will send notification to everyone so you can plan your schedules for attendance.

The OFDA conducted our annual dinner meeting in Portland at the Monarch Hotel on January 16th. We enjoyed the company of 45 members and guests. I want to thank everyone who gave of their time to attend and especially Chad Dresselhaus, Executive Director of the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board. We asked for input regarding things the members felt might warrant review by the OMCB in terms of operating procedures in inspections. I have compiled that list of suggestions and requests that we received throughout the state in the past year and will send to the membership and OMCB this week.

The next few months will be interesting and challenging in the legislative long session that began last week. Our lobbyist, Wally Ordeman, will be center stage on our behalf as we move forward. There are a number of bills that will impact funeral homes and cemeteries that Wally is tracking as we move forward. If you have a local representative in your area that you know personally, please let us know so we can introduce ourselves and offer assistance where possible.

Thank you for your support,
Rick



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11-2018-12-14



VA Assists With The Burial Of Unclaimed Veterans

Reprinted from a VA Press Release, 1/8/2019

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration (NCA) values its partnership with you to honor Veterans with no known next of kin and insufficient financial resources with dignified burial in VA national and VA-grant funded State and Tribal Veterans cemeteries. We could not accomplish this without your efforts. For that reason, we are sending you this message so that you are aware of the revised 2019 reimbursements to ensure that unclaimed Veterans without financial resources may be honored with burial benefits earned through service to our Nation.

VA recently revised annual reimbursement allowances. The maximum allowable reimbursement payable in calendar year 2019 for qualifying interments is \$2,681 for a casket and \$162 for an urn.

Please see the Casket/Urn Reimbursement for Unclaimed Veterans Remains Fact Sheet which explains the requirements and procedures for obtaining the reimbursement. Applicants must submit a VA Form 40-10088 Reimbursement of Casket/Urn.

Additional resources are available to assist you with funeral and transportation expenses for unclaimed Veterans remains when there are insufficient resources. Please see the Unclaimed Veterans Remains Fact Sheet.

Thank you for your continued support in providing honorable and dignified burials for unclaimed Veterans without sufficient financial resources. Should you have additional questions regarding the claim forms, please contact us using our Inquiry Routing & Information System at <https://iris.custhelp.com>, so we can track inquiries and respond promptly.

For information on VA burial benefits, visit www.cem.va.gov or call 800.827.1000. Please look for our future emails on burial and memorial benefits available for eligible Veterans and spouses.

Also, please encourage your friends and colleagues to sign-up for notifications, future e-mail updates and information regarding VA memorial benefits through GovDelivery at <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/usvanca/subscriber/new>

How You Can Help Honor Vietnam Vets

Reprinted from the NFDA Bulletin, 12/3/2018

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration began on Memorial Day, May 28, 2012, and will conclude on Veterans Day, November 11, 2025. The dates were selected to coincide with the designation of Military Assistance Advisory Group-Vietnam (MAAG-V) on November 1, 1955, and the seizure of the SS Mayaguez on May 15, 1975, which marked the end of the Vietnam War. You can be a part of this special nationwide event by hosting an event in your community.

The commemoration honors all veterans who served on active duty at any time between November 1, 1955 and May 15, 1975, regardless of location, and the goal is to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families on behalf of the nation for their service and sacrifice.

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration is committed to helping local business and organizations recognize Vietnam veterans and their families in cities and towns all across America. If you are interested in hosting an appreciation event in your community, visit www.vietnamwar50th.com and click on the "Commemorative Partner Program" link at the top of the page.

The Dodge Company Announces Retirement Of Jack Adams

Reprinted from a Dodge Company Press Release, 12/21/2018

After almost 30 years as a DODGE COMPANY representative, Jack Adams has retired. While Adams will be giving up his daily duties of calling on customers, he plans to continue submitting articles to the *Dodge Magazine*, working with Dodge on technical clinics, helping to develop program materials and teaching at Worsham College. Along the way, he will also work with state funeral associations with embalming programs.

Tim Collison, Dodge COO, recalled that when Adams started with Dodge, he gave up his trade embalming service in Chicago and began to represent Dodge in the Chicagoland territory, as well as nationally and internationally. Said Collison: "Who knew back then that he [Adams] would become one of the most recognizable and respected faces and names in funeral service?"

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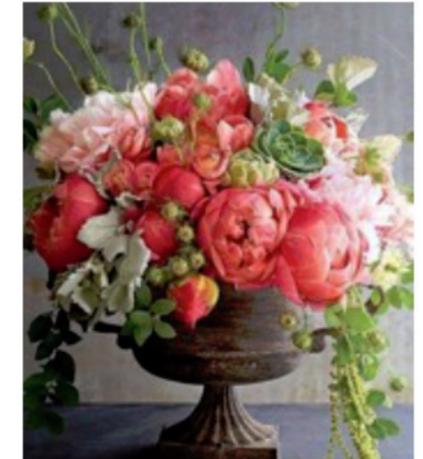
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MHCC Gresham Campus, 2600 SE Stark St.
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Schedule an appointment by email:

mhccmockarrangements19@gmail.com

Or Call/Text Monica: 360-980-0216

If you need assistance due to a disability, please contact the Accessible Education Office at (503)-491-6923 or 503-491-7670 (TDD). Please call at least 2 weeks prior to the event.

The Mt. Hood Funeral Service Program Needs Your Help!

Mt. Hood Community College Funeral Services Program has a **consistent need for bodies** so students can get the necessary personal experience in the lab (embalming, other preparation).

Transportation reimbursement is now available!

MHCC will pay \$150.00 each way. Funeral homes can use this program to offer free embalming to families - and the families can know they are helping a great educational facility where our new or future funeral directors and embalmers learn their profession. If you bring us a body for embalming, and then pick it up again, you can bill the college for \$300.00.

It is essential that written permission from the family be obtained before bringing any bodies to the lab.

Indigent bodies may be embalmed as well. For more information, contact Terri Makinson at 503.419.7967



We are currently accepting bodies for lab



Resolutions for the New Year

The beginning of a new year brings excitement and anticipation about all the things you want to accomplish over the next 12 months. New Year's resolutions are one way to document your goals for yourself — whether it's saving more, or spending more time with family, or losing those last 10 pounds before summer — and make a plan to achieve them. Do you have any New Year's resolutions for your business? Consider some of these ideas to help get your business off on the right foot in 2019.

- **Take Steps to Help Retain Your Most Valuable Employees.** As we start 2019, the unemployment rate is at a record low. Finding (and keeping) employees is becoming more and more difficult. How does your business plan to keep workers from being lured away by a competitor? Consider what incentives you have or could consider offering. A tax-qualified retirement plan, like a SEP or SIMPLE-IRA, or a Private Bonus plan, under which the company provides periodic bonuses to select employees, could motivate them to stay with your business.
- **Protect Against the Loss of a Key Employee.** Have you considered what might happen to your business operations if one of your most valuable, key employees passed away unexpectedly? The death of a key employee could be catastrophic to a business. The loss of expertise, as well as the cost to hire and train a replacement, could be significant. Life insurance coverage on a key employee can help by providing funds to help cover unforeseen costs and keep the business running.
- **Evaluate Succession Plans.** Do you have a business succession plan in place? If so, are the documents up to date? Review buy-sell agreements and funding periodically to make sure they still reflect the wishes of the owners. If you don't have a succession plan yet, make it a resolution to get that done this year. Your family and co-owners will thank you for it!

Let this year's resolutions have a positive impact on the success of your business and your family.

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Announcing Dr. Alan Wolfelt's 2019 Speaking Schedule

The Center for Loss and Life Transition has announced the locations of Dr. Alan Wolfelt's 2019 educational workshops. The content of these workshops helps participants understand their own grief, how to companion others in their grief, and the significance of when words are inadequate, to have meaningful ceremonies. Sponsors include hospices, hospitals, universities, funeral homes, and a variety of community agencies.

The locations are as follows:

- February 19-20 Lincoln, NE
- February 28-Mar. 1 Washington D.C.
- March 12-14 Salt Lake City, UT
- April 9-10 Thomasville, GA
- April 16-17 Topeka, KS
- April 17-18 Olathe, KS
- April 23-24 Fort Wayne, IN
- April 25 Batesville, IN
- May 21-22 Cambridge, ON Canada
- May 24 Washington D.C.
- September 17-18 Location TBD
- September 18-19 Location TBD
- September 19-20 Location TBD
- September 24-25 Greenville, SC
- September 26-27 Butte, MT
- October 15-16 Appleton, WI
- October 17-18 Palm Harbor, FL
- October 22-23 St. Charles, MO
- October 24 Las Vegas, NV
- October 25-26 Chicago, IL
- November 18-19 Windsor, ON Canada
- November 20 Chatham, ON Canada
- November 21 Strathroy, ON Canada

Dr. Alan Wolfelt is the founder of the "Companioning" Model of grief care. As an author, educator, and grief counselor, he is a past recipient of the Association for Death Education and Counseling's Death Educator Award. He serves as the Director of the Center for Loss and Life Transition in Fort Collins, CO. He is the author of numerous best-selling books on grief and loss and also serves on the faculty at the University of Colorado Medical School in the Department of Family Medicine.

For information about these workshops or to explore sponsoring a program in your community, contact DrWolfelt@Centerforloss.com or by phone at 970.226.6050.

For additional dates, please visit our website at www.centerforloss.com and select "Hear Dr. Wolfelt Speak."

2019 Mileage Rates

From irs.gov

The Internal Revenue Service today issued the 2019 optional standard mileage rates used to calculate the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical or moving purposes.

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2019, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 58 cents per mile driven for business use, up 3.5 cents from the rate for 2018,
- 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes, up 2 cents from the rate for 2018, and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations.

The business mileage rate increased 3.5 cents for business travel driven and 2 cents for medical and certain moving expense from the rates for 2018. The charitable rate is set by statute and remains unchanged. It is important to note that under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, taxpayers cannot claim a miscellaneous itemized deduction for unreimbursed employee travel expenses. Taxpayers also cannot claim a deduction for moving expenses, except members of the Armed Forces on active duty moving under orders to a permanent change of station. For more details see Notice-2019-02.

The standard mileage rate for business use is based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. The rate for medical and moving purposes is based on the variable costs. Taxpayers always have the option of calculating the actual costs of using their vehicle rather than using the standard mileage rates. A taxpayer may not use the business standard mileage rate for a vehicle after using any depreciation method under the Modified Accelerated Cost Recovery System (MACRS) or after claiming a Section 179 deduction for that vehicle. In addition, the business standard mileage rate cannot be used for more than four vehicles used simultaneously. These and other limitations are described in section 4.05 of Rev. Proc. 2010-51.

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2019 NFDA Advocacy Summit

Reprinted from a NFDA Press Release, 1/28/2019

The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) asks members to unite to be the profession’s voice on Capitol Hill during the 2019 NFDA Advocacy Summit, April 3-5 in Washington, D.C.

Federal priorities began to shift this month when the 116th Congress took office following the mid-term elections. NFDA needs members’ help to ensure funeral service issues stay top-of-mind with their elected senators and representatives.

“With a so many new members of Congress, this year’s Summit promises to be a time of fresh voices and perspectives,” said NFDA Senior Vice President of Advocacy Lesley Witter, MPA, CAE. “Meeting with your Congressional representatives and sharing your stories during the Advocacy Summit enables you to put a face critical legislation that impacts you and your business.”

With the start of a new session of Congress earlier this month, the legislative slate was wiped clean. NFDA is monitoring the legislation that is being introduced and urging members of Congress to introduce bills that will benefit the profession, grieving families and small business. In the weeks to come, NFDA will share more information about the specific bills on which members will advocate.

The Advocacy Summit begins Wednesday, April 3 with a Welcome Reception at the Decatur House. Built in 1818 and named for its first owner and occupant, Decatur House now serves as the National Center for White House History and is managed by the White House Historical Association.

On Thursday, April 4, attendees will start the day with an informative issues briefing during which attendees will learn about the issues they will be discussing with their Congressional representatives. After the briefing, attendees will gather on the steps of the Capitol building for a group photo. Then the real work of the Advocacy Summit begins.

Delegations from states in attendance will meet with their senators and representatives. During these critical meetings, NFDA members can take a proactive approach to advancing legislation that affects funeral service, small business and the bereaved.

“The role of NFDA members in discussing legislation with members of Congress cannot be underestimated,” said Witter. “The stories you shared during last year’s Summit prompted a number of representatives to support the BRAVE Act, which would improve death benefits for veterans. Before the House version of the bill expired at the end of the last session of Congress, a total of 75 representatives from both sides of the aisle cosponsored the bill. The BRAVE Act in the Senate also gained support after the hard work of

our members during the Advocacy Summit, and shortly after the Senate Veterans Committee included the BRAVE Act in a legislative hearing.”

While NFDA members are advocating on Capitol Hill, they can visit the special NFDA Welcome Room in the Capitol Hill Club. There, attendees can relax and enjoy light refreshments. NFDA staff will be on hand to answer questions; attendees can share information with staff about what has transpired during their meetings with their Congressional representatives.

The evening of April 4, Summit attendees can opt to attend a special fundraising reception and dinner benefitting the NFDA Political Action Committee (PAC). Taking place at Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the event will feature special guest speaker Robert J. O’Neill, one of the most highly-decorated combat veterans of our time and the author *New York Times* best-selling books *The Operator: Firing the Shots That Killed Osama bin Laden* and *My Years as a SEAL Team Warrior*.

On Friday, April 5, the final day of the Summit, attendees have the option of participating in *Honoring Our Nation: Guided Monument Tour*. This unique guided tour will give attendees an up-close look at the Lincoln, Korean War, Vietnam War and WWII memorials. The tour culminates with a visit to the nation’s most sacred site, Arlington National Cemetery. At Arlington, attendees can choose to take a tram for a self-guided experience, explore with a private tour guide or join NFDA President Chuck Bowman for a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Visit www.nfda.org/advocacysummit for the latest information about the Advocacy Summit, including details on how to register and make hotel reservations.

A Monthly Subscription Box For Funeral Directors: The Pine Box Club

Reprinted from NFDA’s Memorial Business Journal, 1/31/2019

Funeral professionals often put families they serve before their own or even themselves because of their desire to serve others above all else. This is why Tammy Friedman developed THE PINE BOX CLUB, a monthly subscription box tailored to a funeral professional’s hectic lifestyle. Each box contains products that support and help promote work/life balance.

Friedman, former vice president of operations for Distinctive Life Cremations & Funerals, is married to a funeral director who has served families for more than 25 years. “I know firsthand the amount of work and personal sacrifice put into serving families,” she said. “Stress, late nights and exhaustion are all part of the job. Without self-care and work/life balance, the job can take a toll on emotional health and lead to burnout. The Pine Box Club is a little reminder to treat yourself and take just a few minutes for your self-care.”

The Pine Box Club was launched in November 2017. Visit <https://thepineboxclub.com> for further details and information.

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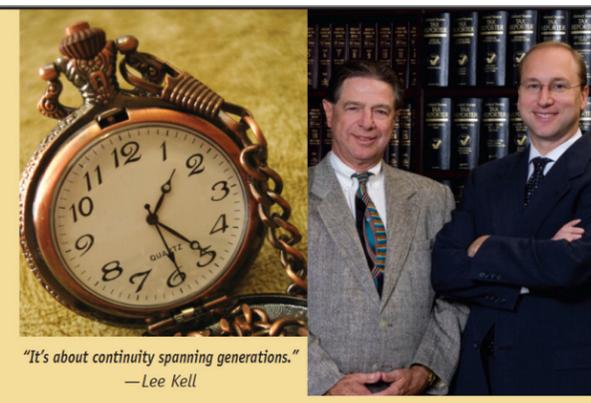
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Oregon Heritage Grants Open for Applications; Four Oregon Heritage Grants Are Now Open For Applications

Museum Grant – Deadline is May 1, 2019
Historic Cemeteries Grant – Deadline is May 1, 2019
Diamonds in the Rough Grant – Deadline is May 15, 2019
Preserving Oregon - Letter of Intent due April 17, 2019

Information For All Grants
Information on all grants can be found by visiting www.oregonheritage.org or by contacting Kuri Gill at Kuri.Gill@oregon.gov or 503.986.0685.

Instructions for using the online grants system can be found on the website. There is a free grant workshop on March 19, 10-11:30am at 725 Summer St NE, Rm 124A; a free webinar will be held on March 15, 2:30-4pm. Contact Kuri Gill at Kuri.Gill@oregon.gov or 503.986.0685 to register.

Museum Grant
Deadline May 1, 2019

The Oregon Heritage Commission is offering grants to qualified museums for collections, heritage tourism, and education and interpretation projects. Awards typically range between \$2,000 and \$10,000.

Museums may apply for a variety of projects. Collections projects may include cataloging, archival storage, disaster preparedness, and conservation. Heritage tourism projects may include museum marketing and promotions, enhancing visitor experience, and training for museum staff. Education and interpretation projects may include exhibits, online education, school classes, workshops, and camps. Museums may also partner with other organizations for projects that might be outside of the museum, but still meet the museum's mission.

Visit the Oregon Heritage Exchange blog to find out about Museum Grant Projects at the Museum of Mental Health, the Benton County Historical Society, the and Port Orford Lifeboat Museum.

Historic Cemeteries Grant
Deadline May 1, 2019

The Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries is offering grants for qualified historic cemeteries. The annual grants fund projects that preserve historic cemeteries. Projects funded in the past include marker repair workshops, fencing, signs, interpretive panels and brochures, security lighting, access improvements, records management, and more. Awards typically range between \$1,000 and \$8,000, but have been higher. Anyone may apply for a grant. Projects must be related to historic cemeteries listed with the Oregon

Commission on Historic Cemeteries. Recent projects include marker repair and workshops in several cemeteries, installations of signs and informational kiosks, a preservation plan, and a fence replacement.

Visit the Oregon Heritage Exchange about Historic Cemeteries Grant projects in Coos Bay and Klamath Falls.

Diamonds in the Rough Grant
Deadline May 15, 2019

The Diamonds in the Rough Grants help restore or reconstruct the facades of buildings that have been heavily altered over the years. These grants return buildings to their historic appearance and potentially qualify them for historic register designation (local or national). Façade projects in Cottage Grove, Dallas, Lebanon, Astoria, and The Dalles were funded in the last cycle. For more information view the Diamonds in the Rough Grant Information & Guidelines.

Visit the Oregon Heritage Exchange to see Diamonds in the Rough projects in Ontario, Dayton, and Portland.

Preserving Oregon Grant
Letter of Intent due April 17, 2019 (Required)
Application Deadline May 15, 2019

The Preserving Oregon Grants fund preservation of historic buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Work may include non-maintenance preservation like window repair, roof work, foundation projects, plumbing, and electrical needs. Recently funded projects include preservation of the 1924 Tourist Ferry in Astoria, the former schoolhouse in Creswell, IOOF cabins at Paulina Lake, Santiam Ski Pass Lodge, the Brown House in Stayton, the Tilly Jane Warming Hut on Mt. Hood, and YU Contemporary in Portland. The program also funds significant work contributing toward identifying, preserving and interpreting archaeological sites. An archaeology project was funded in Lincoln County.

Visit the Oregon Heritage Exchange to see Preserving Oregon grant projects at the Astoria Alderbrook Station and Bly Ranger Station.

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For more information on our endorsed providers or our discount programs, call the OFDA Office at 503.639.1186



*On behalf of the **Lions Vision Gift** and **Community Tissue Services**, we would like to recognize the extraordinary commitment to families each of you demonstrates when we work together to honor the final wishes of donors and their loved ones.*

We know the impact eye and tissue donation has on your funeral home's practices and offer our deepest thanks to funeral directors for helping us provide outstanding customer service to donor families.

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