



Waller Funeral Home
"An Oxford Tradition"

SEASONS

Don and Patsy Waller, Owners
Robert T. (Bob) Rosson, Jr., CFSP, Manager
Beth Waller Rosson, Manager

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Location: 419 Highway 6 West, Oxford, Mississippi
Mailing Address: P. O. Box 1200, Oxford, MS 38655
Telephone: 662-234-7971

Fax: 662-234-3090
E-mail: staff@wallerfuneralhome.com
Website: www.wallerfuneralhome.com

IN THE HINGES OF LIFE

Note from Patsy Waller: The following article by Jim Futral, Executive Director-Treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was so meaningful to me that I am including it instead of my usual personal message. We appreciate Mr. Futral's letting us share his thoughts as printed in The Baptist Record of August 14, 2008.

I was taking a tour of an old home, a southern antebellum home. The house was built somewhere over 150 years ago. Walking into the main entryway, we opened and passed through a huge door. It seemed to me that it was probably four or five times larger than any door that might be in a modern home. It was wider than and probably twice as tall if not more as the average door. I just happened to notice the hinges. Three of them were attached to the wall and to this massive piece of wood. In comparison to the massive door, they were very small hinges but it was on those three pieces of metal that everything moved. The door opened, closed, and operated because of the hinges. It could be said that in a real sense everything that happened in that house whether it was welcoming guests or ushering folks out depended upon those hinges.

I noticed that the hinges on that massive door looked much like and operated the same way that hinges do on doors today. While 150-plus years have passed, very little advancement has been made or changes taken place in hinges. In spite of the fact that during that time the airplane was invented and radios, televisions, telephones, cell phones, and

WALLER FUNERAL HOME RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD



Bob and Beth Rosson are shown after accepting the seventh consecutive National Funeral Directors Association Pursuit of Excellence Award for Waller Funeral Home at the annual meeting of the association in Orlando, Florida, on October 14, 2008. Pictured with them is Michael R. St. Pierre, President of the National Funeral Directors Association.

The award honors funeral homes for their outstanding service to families, community involvement, technical abilities, and professional integrity. Performing and documenting the specific and exacting requirements for this award require hard work of the funeral home staff and provide excellent opportunities for evaluation and improvement of funeral home services. Waller Funeral Home was one of only two funeral homes in Mississippi receiving the award this year.

computers have all come into existence, man has gone to the moon and back, yet hinges have stayed about the same.

They are everywhere. We cannot go anywhere, do anything, or enjoy life without hinges. As I looked at those small metal hinges swinging that massive wooden door, I thought about how life seems to move on hinges.

The doors seem to open or close and the massive movements of life seem to be attached to certain hinges. There are times when you think that you are coming up on one of the great, life-transforming, huge moments in life only to find out that it was really not as significant as you thought it would be—while at other times, something

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HINGES

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happened in a spontaneous, serendipitous way and it became a transformational hinge moment in your life. Life is filled with hinges that open and close, to welcome you in and allow you to escape.

I thought about one of those hinge moments in life like when I got my first drivers license. It was a fantastic, earthshaking, swing-the-door-wide-open moments. I could go anywhere that I got ready to go. It turned out to be anything but an earthshaking do-what-you-want-to-do kind of moment. Why? Because when I got my license it did not take long before I realized that I did not have a car, could not afford one, could not pay the insurance on it if I had one, could not put the gas in it, or keep up the maintenance on it if I had one. It was a big deal and it was a big day, but not near as big as I had thought it was going to be. It was several years later before I had saved up my money, bought a car, paid for my insurance, and began to pay the gas and tire bills on a 1950 Dodge Deluxe. I paid for it myself and then began to pay for insurance and try to keep gas in the tank. Even then, there were restrictions on the car that I bought and paid

for with my own money. My Mom and Dad told me when I could go and where I could go.

By contrast, there are moments, events, and even decisions that you have not given much thought to and all of a sudden it happens and you are left with life swinging open and shut in a moment of time in ways that you never dreamed could happen. Those are moments like death, the consequences of a dumb decision, or the blessings that come from the decisions that you spent little time thinking about but reaped rewards of joy from for years to come.

Now all of this discussion about the hinges of life brought me to this point in my thought process. I pray that God will allow me to be used by Him in the lives of others around the hinges of life moments. There is something about the needs in the lives of people that the hinge moments cannot be repeated, duplicated, or even ignored. Through the years, God has blessed me in allowing me to be around and to be a part of individuals and families at the hinge moments of service. A door may open and close a thousand times and barely be significant, but there are occasions when the door swings open and life is never the same again.

I pray that for you and for me that

God would give us a sensitivity to watch for and to be near to folks to care about them, to minister to them, and to help them in the hinges of life moments. Maybe you know of someone and things have swung in their life in recent days and you can care and minister to them in the redeeming love of Jesus. Possibly it involves a death, divorce, addiction, the pain of a broken relationship, the disappointment of a child gone astray, or the disillusionment of a parent who has taken a wrong turn. Watch for the hinges of life and be ready to help.

PRENEED TODAY

Prepayment for funeral services is even more financially beneficial today than previously. Interest rates on investments (CD's, bonds, savings accounts, etc.) are lower than the rate of inflation which affects funeral costs. Paying now for a prearranged funeral will save you more than most investments will earn.

Preplanning details of funeral services can free your family from having to provide information and make many decisions at a stressful time. You can have the satisfaction of making your own choice of things such as place, music, minister, and pallbearers. We have forms and suggestions at the funeral home which will be helpful in planning.

We frequently see the relief families feel when services have been prepaid and/or preplanned. We will gladly assist you at your convenience and with no obligation to consider options of prearrangement. Call 234-7971 to set up an appointment.

Bob Rosson is serving the second year of a two-year term as an At-large Representative to the Executive Board of the National Funeral Directors Association. The Association includes more than 19,500 individual members who represent more than 10,000 funeral homes in the United States and other countries.

An online condolence and guest registry website is available at <http://www.wallerfuneralhome.com>. Call our staff or visit our website if you want additional information about this service.

EASTOVER MEMORIAL CEMETERY



This impressive statue of Christ in prayer is the focal point of the Eastover Memorial Cemetery. Placed on a slight incline in the center of the cemetery, the statue is equally beautiful from any location in the cemetery.

Eastover Memorial Cemetery, just off Highway 30 on Camp Hopewell Road, provides a beautiful rural burial setting. We encourage you to drive out to see for yourself the attractive layout of the cemetery with an encircling driveway and convenient concrete walks which make every lot easily accessible.

Waller Funeral Home is responsible for the sale of lots and for management and maintenance. Members of our staff are available to show lots and discuss purchase options at your convenience. Call us at 234-7971 for further information.

1ST LT. DONALD CARWILE

Funeral services were held for U. S. Army 1ST Lt. Donald "Donnie" Carwile, hometown hero, on August 23, 2008. Services were held at North Oxford Baptist Church with the Reverends Randy Hope and Jerry East officiating. Burial followed in Oxford Memorial Cemetery.

Although we have a policy of no eulogies in *Seasons*, we respectfully make this exception to include this tribute to this outstanding young man who dedicated himself to military service in our country's battles. He was killed by an improvised explosive device during a routine patrol on August 15, 2008.

Donnie enlisted in the Army shortly after graduating from Lafayette High School in 1998. After a stint in the Army, he returned home where he began a career in law enforcement, working first with the Batesville and then the Oxford Police Departments, meanwhile earning a degree in criminal justice from the University of Mississippi in 2006. Rejoining the Army full-time, he completed Officer Candidate School and was stationed first in Georgia and then Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In March he deployed overseas. He was killed in the sixth month of his deployment in Afghanistan.

Crowds of hometowners and visitors gathered in Oxford to show respect for Donnie and support for his family when his body arrived at the University-Oxford Airport on August 21 and when visitation and funeral services were held. A true spirit of gratitude, patriotism, and respect was evident throughout. At his funeral Donnie was remembered as "a man defined by discipline, determination, and duty—his focused drive to serve his country matched only by the tender affection he held for his two little girls." He was saluted as a fallen but not forgotten hero.

Surviving Donnie are his wife Jennifer and two daughters, 5-year-old Elizabeth Reese and 3-year-old Avery Claire. He is also survived locally by his father, Dennis Carwile, and a large extended family. Jennifer Carwile and her daughters have moved back to Oxford to be close to her parents, Louie and Connie Lamb, and other family members and friends.

Waller Funeral Home was honored to assist with funeral services for Lt. Carwile.

Holiday Message

Many of you have experienced the loss of a loved one since the last celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas. The upcoming holidays without that special person will be a sad, difficult time. Our hearts reach out to you in caring concern.

Others, further removed from sadness, have reason for a thankful heart and look forward to the holiday season with joyful anticipation.

Our wish for each of you is God's presence in your heart and life in these days. Truly, God is good and blesses us by His presence whatever our circumstances.

*Bob Rosson Beth Rosson
Gally Kate Walker Patsy Waller
Rocky Kennedy Brett W. Rosson
Cari Waller Bobby Shelton*

Complimentary inspirational and dashboard calendars are available at the funeral home as expression of our appreciation and friendship to you.

Grief helps focusing on getting through the first holiday season since the death of a family member are being sent to those families we have served since last Christmas. If you know of someone else you think might benefit from this material, please let us know.

The authors of the *Chicken Soup for the Soul* series, Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen, aspire "to live and to encourage others to live lives filled with passion, purpose, pursuit of one's dreams, and service to others." The poem below is quoted from *Chicken Soup for the Soul Christmas Treasury*.

- Christmas gift suggestions:
- To your enemy, forgiveness.
- To an opponent, tolerance.
- To a friend, your heart.
- To a customer, service.
- To all, charity.
- To every child, a good example.
- To yourself, respect.

-Oren Arnold

MEMORIAL CHRISTMAS TREE SERVICE

You are cordially invited to participate in the annual Memorial Christmas Tree Service sponsored jointly by North Oxford Baptist Church, North Mississippi Hospice, and Waller Funeral Home on Sunday, December 7, at 5 p.m. in the Family Life Center of North Oxford Baptist Church.

The service will include the opportunity to celebrate the lives of deceased family members and friends by placing personalized ornaments on a Christmas tree. You can bring an ornament or you can personalize one of the ornaments provided. You may want to bring a photograph of the memorialized one to display.

The service will also include carol singing, special music, prayer, and a spiritual message. Refreshments will be provided but bring treats to share if you desire.

Participants in the past have expressed appreciation for this meaningful time of reflection and encouragement during the holiday season. Some come back every year.

This is a community-wide event for people of all denominations. We encourage you to come. If you have any questions, please give us a call, 234-7971.

In Memoriam

We dedicate this issue of *Seasons* to those who died and whose families we served from August 15, 2008, through November 16, 2008.

1Lt. Donald Clayton "Donnie" Carwile August 15, 2008
 Mr. Will A. Hickman August 21, 2008
 Mr. Robert Lester "Bob" Hudson. August 22, 2008
 Mr. James Raymond Curtis August 22, 2008
 Mr. James A. "Jim" Jones August 26, 2008
 Mrs. Joan Grisham Popernik August 28, 2008
 Dr. Charles E. "Chuck" Noyes August 30, 2008
 Mrs. Ramona Stockton Cotten September 2, 2008
 Mrs. Emily Holloway Peacock September 2, 2008
 Mrs. Eleonore Mezger Dooley. September 3, 2008
 Mr. Amos Turnage "A.T." Bunch, Jr. September 3, 2008
 Mr. Ralph Estel Watts, Sr. September 5, 2008
 Mr. Robert Lee Allen September 6, 2008
 Mr. David Eugene White September 9, 2008
 Mrs. Lore Schweizer Kavyas September 12, 2008
 Mrs. Edna Avent Shellabarger. September 18, 2008
 Mrs. Dorothy Griffin Oliver. September 19, 2008
 Mr. Edwin Hayes "Ed" Roberts, Sr. September 20, 2008
 Mr. Rodney Gene White. September 23, 2008
 Dr. Lyman Abbott Magee September 24, 2008
 Mrs. Christine Murphree "Chris" Gates. September 26, 2008
 Mrs. Martha Glenn Stephens Cofield. September 29, 2008
 Mrs. Kathleen King McElroy September 29, 2008
 Mrs. Dorothy Bour Gordon September 30, 2008
 Mrs. Jimmie Tatum Callicoat. October 2, 2008
 Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Poynor Collins. October 6, 2008
 Mrs. Nina Bunch Goolsby October 7, 2008
 Mr. Rickey Wayne Rakestraw October 9, 2008

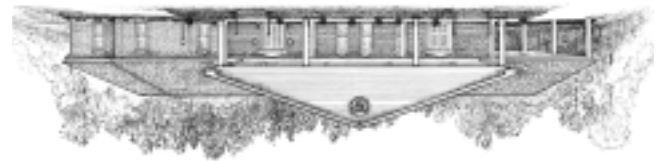
Mr. James Gary Watts October 10, 2008
 Mr. Clenton Lee Bray, Jr. October 12, 2008
 Mr. Noel Carlton Waits October 16, 2008
 Rev. James Percy Randle October 22, 2008
 Mrs. Mary Gaines Thweatt. October 22, 2008
 Mrs. Mary Lois Brown McLarty. October 27, 2008
 Mr. Larry J. Graham October 27, 2008
 Mrs. Cleo Smith "Polly" Underwood October 28, 2008
 Mr. Clyde Gray Huggins, Jr. October 29, 2008
 Mr. John Pat Day October 30, 2008
 Mrs. Mae Hemphill Thompson November 8, 2008
 Mrs. Anne Truett Oxnam November 9, 2008
 Mrs. Marjorie Roy Klepzig November 12, 2008
 Mr. John Henry Galloway. November 15, 2008
 Mrs. Juanita Bland Phillips November 16, 2008

SOME CALL IT AUTUMN

A haze on the far horizon,
 The infinite, tender sky,
 The ripe, rich tint of cornfields,
 And wild geese sailing high;
 And all over upland and lowland
 The charm of the goldenrod,
 Some of us call it Autumn,
 And others call it God.

-J. Winston Pearce
The Window Sill of Heaven

2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
 NFD A Pursuit of Excellence



Return Service Requested
 Phone: 662-234-7971
 Oxford, Mississippi 38655
 P. O. Box 1200
Waller Funeral Home



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