



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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PROFESSIONAL AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Four Pursuit of Excellence Awards are now proudly displayed at Waller Funeral Home. These awards, presented by the National Funeral Directors Association, honor funeral homes for their outstanding community service, technical ability, and professional integrity judged on strict quality service criteria in nine categories of achievement: education, compassionate service, technical skills, community and professional service, library or media resources, professional development, in-house staff training, and public and community relations. The Waller Funeral Home staff has worked diligently to fulfill the requirements in each of these areas and to compile the scrapbooks containing supporting exhibits.

But our greatest pride is not in the awards themselves but in the extensive self-evaluation and continuing improvements we make by following the guidelines. The requirements are carefully constructed to suggest to funeral homes what they need to do to be "the best we can be."

The most important thing to us at Waller Funeral Home is serving families at the time of the death of a loved one with compassion and professionalism. We strive to serve as we would like to be served, and we view our staff as our family serving your family. We give constant attention to maintaining an attractive and comfortable facility, appropriate vehicles, and intense staff attention to details.

Professional involvement enhan-

ces our technical and personal skills, and community involvement helps us to support the community we live in and love. Our latest scrapbook gives us a quick review of our 2005 activities.

As in all professions, attendance at professional meetings gives opportunities to learn the latest developments in the profession (The technology continues to amaze us.), to share ideas and friendships with fellow professionals, and to receive regular professional publications.

Beth Rosson and Trish Cousley took part in the National Funeral Directors Association Professional

Women's Conference, "Inspiration 2005," in Scottsdale, Arizona. The event provided women who work in funeral service the opportunity to broaden their professional skills.

Bob and Beth Rosson on March 7-9 attended the National Funeral Directors Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C., which provides opportunities for messages about funeral service to be heard by members of Congress and protects the interest of funeral directors and small businesses throughout the country. While in Washington, Bob and Beth visited the office of Representative Roger Wicker as part

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SHADOW DAY



Rocky Kennedy looks over headstone samples at Waller Funeral Home with Brittany Yeargin on Shadow Day.

On Shadow Day, students visit businesses they are interested in and observe operations. Brittany Yeargin, of Lafayette High School, shadowed Rocky Kennedy at Waller Funeral Home on February 22, 2006.

Rocky followed the plan recommended by the school, describing to Brittany job responsibilities of a funeral director, education and training required, and skills needed to be successful on the job. He tried to describe a typical day as a funeral director but had to admit that not many things are typical about this job.

Rocky toured Brittany through the funeral home, explaining the functions of each room and of the merchandise available - caskets, vaults, and headstones. He

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INVOLVEMENT

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of the advocacy program.

Bobby Phelps attended the Mississippi Funeral Directors Association Fall Seminar in Choctaw, Mississippi, September 12-14.

In addition to these professional meetings, the staff participated in additional educational opportunities. The entire staff on February 28 attended the *Honoring Lives Tour*, presented by Batesville Casket Company, in Batesville, Mississippi. The presentation included display and explanation of innovative changes taking place in casket design.

Rocky Kennedy attended a seminar on tissue donation presented by the Mid-South Tissue Bank in Senatobia, Mississippi, on February 1. On April 5, Rocky served as a volunteer for a SIDS program presented by Wanda Patterson, of the Mississippi State Department of Health, in Batesville, Mississippi.

In-house, the staff has received training through study of the Funeral Service Educational Foundation Certified Preplanning Consultant Program Manual with Bob Rosson, CFSP, CPC, leading a class on May 25. The staff also viewed on May 19 a copy of the "Annual OSHA Training" taped from a satellite seminar presented by the Mississippi Funeral Directors Association.

Waller Funeral Home places importance on compassionate care not only during services immediately after a death, but also later. Trish Cousley and Patsy Waller provide an aftercare program whereby three to four weeks following a funeral service appropriate grief material is distributed to family members. A Waller Funeral Home staff member makes an in-home visit to deliver the grief material when feasible, and out-of-town family members receive grief material and a personal note through the mail.

To help families deal with death and grief, Waller Funeral Home has established an extensive library containing books about grief, funeral service, and spirituality. Books added during 2005 included: *Healing A Friend's Grieving Heart*, by Alan D. Wolfelt; *Good Grief*, by Granger E. Westberg; *I'll Hold You In Heaven*, by

Debbie Heydrick; *Teenage Grief*, by Janet N. Tyson; *In Sickness & In Health*, by Gail Lynch. The Funeral Home donated copies of the same books to the library of First Baptist Church. In the past similar books have been donated to other area churches and to the Oxford-Lafayette County Library.

Tours of the funeral home are provided when requested by school, club, or other groups. Groups touring during 2005 included: Kim Shackelford's Social Work 427 class from the University of Mississippi; the Confirmation Class of the Oxford-University United Methodist Church; a geriatrics class from the University of Mississippi; and the Allied Health Class from the Oxford/Lafayette Business and Industrial Complex.

Rocky Kennedy represented Waller Funeral Home with a small display and met many Ole Miss students who expressed interest in funeral service at the Career Day sponsored by the University of Mississippi on January 27.

Waller Funeral Home continues to co-sponsor with North Oxford Baptist Church and North Mississippi Hospice of Oxford an annual Memorial Christmas Tree Service. The service allows families and friends to remember deceased loved ones by placing ornaments on a Christmas tree.

Among our contributions in 2005 were a local basketball program, SAV-A-LIFE of Lafayette County, and the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. We assisted in sponsoring Child Grief Day 2005, presented by the University's Social Work Department. Bob Rosson presented a program on February 1 to the Rotary Club of Oxford about the World War II Memorial (Waller Funeral Home helped sponsor the local fund-raising balloon release.). Bob Rosson volunteers his services regularly to the Lafayette County Sheriff's Department as a Reserve Deputy on patrol duty. The funeral home sponsored a clergy and spouse appreciation dinner on June 14 at which the funeral home staff introduced new programs and services available at the funeral home.

A special project in 2005 was joining other members of the Mississippi Funeral Directors Association in

providing help for Hurricane Katrina victims. Brett Rosson spent several days helping funeral homes on the coast. Our funeral home served as a drop-off point for local donations of supplies needed on the coast, and Brett returned with Bob to distribute the supplies where they were needed.

We take very seriously our obligation to help families through the difficult time after the loss of a loved one. We dedicate ourselves to providing superior compassionate, professional service to families. We also accept the responsibility of using our time and resources for professional, community, and compassionate causes. ■

SHADOW DAY

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described the overall process of making funeral arrangements with a family. A family in the arrangements room with Beth Rosson allowed Brittany to sit in on some of the arrangements discussion. In the office, Rocky and Brittany made a memorial folder on the computer, sent an obituary to newspapers, and created a picture tribute for a service. Rocky discussed the education required to become a funeral director/embalmer and recommended to Brittany that, if she chooses this career path, she complete a Bachelor of Science or a Bachelor of Arts degree before entering the mortuary program. Rocky took Brittany to Eastover Memorial Cemetery and to Oxford Memorial Cemetery to look at different kinds of monuments and to describe marking graves for burial.

After returning to the funeral home, they discussed prearrangements, burial insurance, and technology at the funeral home. Rocky pointed out that, although things have evolved, the commitment to service has remained the same.

The schools are commended for arranging opportunities for students to gain special insight into their areas of occupational interest. It was a privilege and pleasure to again be a part of this program. ■

FROM OUR SCRAPBOOK



Kim Shackelford's Social Work 427 class from the University of Mississippi toured Waller Funeral Home on January 6, 2005, with Bob Rosson discussing aspects of funeral service.



Rocky Kennedy represented Waller Funeral Home with a small display and met many Ole Miss students who expressed interest in funeral service at the Career Day sponsored by the University of Mississippi on January 27, 2005.



Pictured is a team of the local baseball program, to which Waller Funeral Home made a financial donation.



A geriatrics class from the University of Mississippi toured Waller Funeral Home on April 7, 2005, with Bob Rosson discussing aspects of funeral service.



The Confirmation Class of the Oxford-University United Methodist Church toured Waller Funeral Home on May 4, 2005, with Beth Rosson discussing aspects of funeral service.



Representing Waller Funeral Home, Brett Rosson (right) presented five books relating to grief and funeral service to the library of First Baptist Church. Reverend Robert Allen, Pastor, accepted for the church.

A TIME TO WEEP, AND A TIME TO LAUGH

We weep all kinds of tears—tears of sadness, pain, joy, anger, frustration, and even those unnamed tears that spring forth at unexpected and seemingly inappropriate times. We weep at birth and death, at beauty and devastation, at weddings, funerals, and television shows.

There is medical proof that tears are cleansing and healthy; they provide an actual physiological release that is necessary to the function of the human body. . . .

God gave us tear ducts for a reason, and one of those reasons is so that we can have a way to release the emotions that bottle up inside of us. Tears also "cleanse and rinse and irrigate our souls so that new life can flow where only silt had been."

Weeping is very much a part of Jesus' life. . . . The times when Jesus weeps are turning points. He is not diminished by his tears nor immobilized by them. . . . Weeping can lead to change, for once we have confronted the pain, sorrow, or trauma that causes us to weep, then we can begin to heal and move forward with the cleansing of our hearts.

Thank goodness there is more to our lives than weeping, however. "Blessed are you who weep," Jesus says (Luke 6:21b) —because you are able to weep, you will also be able to laugh. Laughter forces us to take a deep breath. We cannot laugh without breathing. . . . Laughter breaks the ice, melts the tension—it truly is good for the soul.

Laughter reminds us that whatever happens now is not the end of the world. The women weep at the cross and at the tomb, but those tears soon turn to laughter and joy. Jesus is alive! That's what it's all about. Sin is conquered! Death is no more! Christ is risen, hallelujah! Dispense with the downcast faces, the somber souls. Laugh, why don't you! The world has been upended, and everything as we know it is changed forever, because Christ is risen. Christ is alive—and so are we. So are we.

*-Kathleen Long Bostrom
For Everything A Season
Horizons Bible Study*

In Memoriam

We dedicate this issue of *Seasons* to those who died and whose families we served from February 9, 2006, through May 2, 2006.

Mr. Ernest L. Cox	February 9, 2006
Mr. John Martin McGregor	February 11, 2006
Mrs. Judith Waller "Judy" Tatum	February 13, 2006
Mrs. Elnora Mayo Crockett.	February 16, 2006
Mrs. Wanda Joy Thweatt.	February 17, 2006
Mrs. Dell Cain Ross	February 18, 2006
Dr. Jerome Fontaine Leavell.	February 20, 2006
Mr. Kendall Danehower Gregory	February 25, 2006
Mr. Robert Grady Jackson	February 26, 2006
Mr. Donald DeBeauchamp Campbell . . .	February 26, 2006
Mrs. Kitty Sue Reed Hickman	March 1, 2006
Dr. William Wayne Malone.	March 2, 2006
Mr. Hamlin Lapham Williston	March 5, 2006
Mrs. Mary Lee Morrison.	March 8, 2006
Mrs. Mildred Morrison King.	March 9, 2006
Mrs. Lessie Prince Oaks.	March 12, 2006
Mr. James Albert Smith	March 13, 2006
Mrs. Edith Lamb Ivy	March 14, 2006
Mr. Billy Wayne Britt.	March 16, 2006
Mr. Horace Dean Vinson	March 17, 2006
Mrs. Francis Marie Wood Phillips.	March 24, 2006
Mrs. Mary E. Bonds	March 24, 2006
Mr. Don Luther Gerred.	March 29, 2006
Mrs. Corinne Tatum Womack	April 1, 2006
William Edward Applewhite	April 7, 2006
Mr. Eddie Godfrey Hatley.	April 15, 2006
Mrs. Ima Gene Benbow	April 22, 2006
Mr. Aaron Bennett Beard	April 23, 2006
Mr. Hosey Holcombe Locke.	April 28, 2006
Mrs. Lillian Waurine Moore Urbanek	April 29, 2006
Mrs. Mary Deborah Babcock Williams	May 1, 2006
Mr. Authur Clarence Busby	May 1, 2006
Mr. Virgil William Hall	May 2, 2006

Return Service Requested

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Waller Funeral Home



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