Dodd & Reed Funeral Home, Inc.

E. Booney's Tribute

"Everybody dies famous in a small town", is a line from a song I heard recently and I guess in a way that is true in Webster Springs, WV. Whether you are remembered as that girl that lived up the street, the old maid school teacher with all the cats, or the eccentric town recluse, in a small town you have a degree of fame.

Our friend Booney, however, had a degree of fame which went beyond our city limits. He had been a member of the West Virginia House of Delegates, and became the Speaker of that body. He became judge and served a distinguished term in that position before retiring. He was a political figure who maintained close ties with many state and national contacts. He was a promoter of Webster County and always sought to convey to others its appeal and advantages. He was also an avid outdoorsman. He traveled many miles to experience hunting and fishing in many areas of the state and nation.

In September of 2006, Booney died suddenly after surgery. The procedure was serious but this outcome was a shock for his family and friends. His wife and children were devastated.

Booney had expressed to his wife that he wished to be cremated. His family wanted to abide by his wishes but also felt that they needed a dignified and personal service to pay tribute to his life. John met with the family and discussed what they felt would be an appropriate service for this beloved member of the community.

An evening visitation with time available for the family and friends, as well as the public was planned. A display of memorabilia from his life was arranged. This included his robe which he wore while serving on the bench, a gavel, his pipe, his wading boots, fishing pole and tackle box. The urn containing Booney's cremains was also present for this service. A video record of his life with his family, his career and his many fishing and hunting trips was also produced to be used during this service. A memorial service was held the next day, with many distinguished speakers and attendants. After the service the family asked that the cremains be taken to Booney's camp, situated just out of the city limits. The family and a host of friends stepped to the edge of the Back Fork River and deposited a small amount of his cremains there. The river was a place he loved for all of his adult life. The urn with the balance of his cremains was placed on the mantle of his camp where he found refuge and solace and it remains there today as this is written.



I. BASIC REQUIREMENTS

E. INNOVATIVE FUNERAL SERVICE

On February 24, 2007 our funeral home was called on to serve the Belcher family after suffering the sudden loss of their son at the young age of 23. His mother went into Tommy's room to awaken her son, finding him unresponsive. She called 911, the medics rushed him to our local hospital, trying to revive this families young son without success. The family was at a very dark time in their lives.

The hospital nursing staff called our funeral home to serve the Belcher family at their request. Upon arrival at the hospital emergency room, the family was gathered together in the family room. You could tell they were at a great loss.

We began to gather information and discuss with family members the options of services we could provide. At this time, we could tell, the family could not gather their thoughts. Not being able to accept the loss of their son, "Tommy". At that moment we realized, we had to help this loving family come to accept their grief. We began to discuss the life of Tommy, things he enjoyed, hobbies, habits, activities, friends and family memories. You could tell at that point in time, the focus became remembering his life and their facial expressions became lifted and their hearts lightened.

These discussions became filled with smiles, tears, hugs, laughter and giving thanks to God for their time with their precious son "Tommy". The healing had begun right in front of our eyes.







We would like to share some of our experience with you with the Belcher Family. For approximate hour and an half, we heard their memories of his first words spoken, riding bikes, sleeping in tents in the back yard, and school days. Deer, turkey, and duck hunting with his father was his favorite passion in life.

Picking up on our discussions and making notes, we began to give options of personalization to give the family of the best ideas of sharing the life their son lived. The family gathered personal items and we began the display.

The most personalized item for the service was the casket. They selected a wood casket lined with camo fabric was selected to begin the story of his life. We used an easel with a display board for photographs for special hunting shots. Two tables were also used to display family memories along with a stuffed turkey and a deer mount.

INNOVATIVE FUNERAL SERVICE SANDERSON FUNERAL HOME CARTHAGE, TENNESSEE

In May 2007, a country farmer was killed in a tragic tractor accident. While helping a neighbor whose car was stuck in a ditch, his tractor overturned, pinning him underneath it. After meeting with the family, it was decided to celebrated his life with "victory memorial service". Even though he was in his 70's, he had been in good health and was extremely active, working his farm and enjoying his many hobbies. He especially loved the outdoors. Fishing and hunting were his passion. We had his family bring in several mementos that were especially dear to him. They brought his wading boots, his minnow bucket and his favorite fishing rod. We also had them to bring in pictures of him with his "best catches". We set up a large picture display in one of our visitation rooms. Beside the display of pictures, we added the mementos that were brought in. We put one of the family's favorite oudoor snapshots of him on the memorial folders and under his picture his favorite scripture-Psalms 42:1. A special personalized obituary which remembered and honored him was written by one of our funeral directors and placed in the local newspaper. We had a large visitation and the family was comforted by sharing happy memories with family and friends. The family was so pleased because they felt as though the unique life and personality of their loved one had been celebrated. The gentleman was later cremated and his cremains were scattered on the family farm. We felt as though this service truly represented this particular individual and the feelings that his family had for him. We hope that this meaningful tribute focused not on his death but the life he lived.

Targhetta & Wooldridge Funeral Home

Crossing The River

Summertime, the best time of the year for most people. Simple things, you know like fishing, camping, boating and motorcycles these little things make life- well, worth living. These simple things were Mark Eales passions. Mother Nature gave Mark his play ground. Trees, fish and the Illinois River, gifts that were given to mankind to stop and enjoy. Mark did stop and enjoy until his body could go no more.

Melody Eales, Mark's wife called the funeral home in the late summer of 2006. She told us that Mark was on Hospice and in the final stages of cancer. She wondered if it would be too much trouble for Chris Wooldridge to stop by the house and help plan Mark's funeral (Mark and Chris shared a mutual friend).

Chris arrived at the Eales' home and was welcomed as if he was a long time friend. Mark could not talk any longer because of the advanced stages of cancer in his throat. He sat up in his hospital bed, with a pen and pad of paper in his frail hands. I want to be cremated, Mark wrote. "OK", Chris said, we can do that. Chris then asked one simple question, "Mark, what is it that you love to do?" With that simple remark the flood of emotions opened. Chris learned many things about Mark and his love for nature in that short two hour meeting. They communicated about how important it was for Melody and his other family and friends to have a chance to say good -bye.

As the communication went on Mark, decided to have a funeral that represented him. Instead of a casket, his cremains would be set on his motorcycle. A little camp site would be constructed, complete with his cooler filled with his favorite "Budweiser" products. Instead of a hearse, a fishing boat would take his cremains to middle of the Illinois River to be released. Following the trip to the river Mark wanted his friends and family to meet at his favorite pub, "The Wild Goose Saloon". Chris assured Mark that every wish would be carried out exactly the way he wanted.

Mark died four days later. He was ready to go back to Mother Nature. We leave you with this poem in memory of Mark Eales.

A stillness fell on the river's face one summer's eve.

A dark cloud covered up the sun,
There didn't seem to be a breeze.

No more will he board his boat or step upon the muddy ground.
The snakes, the frogs, the animals along the creek and river bank
No more will hear his motor's sound.

The waves from his wake ne're again will wash upon the shore.
His face again we will not see,
His voice we will hear no more.

His call for river traffic, up and down, never more will be.
For the last voice he heard on his radio was
God, "You will come and be with me".