Pursuit of Excellence Award

David 6. Brown Funeral Home

Category IV: continued

On Friday, May 4, 2007, Kathie M. Steigerwald, Pre-need Consultant E. and Public Relations Coordinator and Chair of the event, along with several Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce members and several Belleville High School Band Boosters parents, held an auction at the Holiday Inn Express.

The auction had a "Rock and Roll" theme this year and raised over 40 thousand dollars. This money will go toward paying off the Belleville Chamber Office Building and will also purchase uniforms for the local High School Band.

On June 7, 2007, Kathie M. Steigerwald, Pre-need Consultant and Public Relations Coordinator, was installed as the President of the Belleville Area of Chamber of Commerce, and Richard L. Willick, Licensed Funeral Director, was installed as an Ambassador to the Chamber.

David C. Brown, Owner and Manager, serves on the Belleville Cemetery Advisory Commission. Gary E. Koeppe, Funeral Director Assistant, also sits on the Cemetery Advisory Commission for a seventh term as Head Martha A. Brown, Grief Specialist, serves on the Parks and Recreation Committee for the City of Belleville, Michigan.

Richard L. Willick, Licensed Funeral Director, serves as Secretary/Treasurer of Michigan Funeral Director's Association District #2. He also serves as the Rotary International District 6400 club in the Belleville Chapter as Vice President for the 2007-2008 term.

F. On June 2, 2007, Richard L. Willick and Shelly A. Brown, Licensed Funeral Directors, participated in Relay for Life in Belleville, Michigan. They walked with the Belleville Rotary Club Team. Both walked during the day, and into the night, for the 24 hour event to raise awareness and money for the fight against cancer. The Rotary Club as a whole raised nearly \$5,000 for the American Cancer Society.







Funeral Services for Retired Firefighters

Dowden Funeral Home has an innovative funeral service that we perform on retired firefighters. This funeral service is to honor our Heroes who have given their time and service volunteering their time for our community's.

We coordinate with 21 Fire Departments when we conduct one of these services. This service includes the department that the deceased served for as Pall Bearers and Honorary Pall Bearers that line the church or chapel all dressed in uniform. As we proceed to the cemetery we have a total as sometimes 20 trucks lining the intersections and leading us to the cemetery. When we enter the cemetery we post a Ladder Truck at the entrance with the Latter extended with a twenty-five foot American Flag blowing in the wind. As part of the setup for viewing we have a collection of Antique Fire Equipment that we will set up on the casket and around the room if the family so desires. This includes Bunker Gear, Antique Fire Helmets, the Fire Fighters Flag, & Pictures of the Old Fire Trucks from the 1940's. These Firefighter risked their lives and time for sometimes up to 30 years and we want to honor them in their last ride.

The reason behind our idea is that we have been active in the firefighting community for 20 years ourselves and we know the dedication and time it takes to serve our community in these regards. It benefits the families by honoring their loved ones in a time of mourning and in stowing a sense of pride that their loved one has made an impact on our lives.

The benefits that this offers the Fuenral Home is that by honoring somebody we respect it gives our profession a good image and gives ourselves a sense of pride that we have given everything we can give to serve our heroes.