

For many years, flowers have been sent to the funeral home for display at the visitation and funeral service of the deceased. In our community, this tradition has remained steadfast for decades. Florist bring many different types of floral arrangements, which sometimes can be a real challenge for the funeral director to display.

One particular arrangement, the tall or short easel, that is made of a steel tripod type devise, has always been a favorite of our local florist. The steel tripod makes for a very beautiful display, however, after the tripod is displayed at the cemetery to help cover the grave after it has been filled, these steel tripods have become somewhat of a nuisance to the cemetery caretakers. After the flowers have wilted and weathered, all that is left is the metal tripod. The easel tripod can really tear up lawn equipment if not disposed of, and the disposal of these is not easy. Not all landfills will accept these metal devises.

So, we at Roller-Crouch Funeral Home decided to see if there was another use for these metal tripods or if this was something we could turn into a positive for everyone involved. Our collective thinking came up with few ideas, one of which was to use the tripod as a garden stake for vegetable gardens. This idea did not work too well, so we came up with the idea to recycle the easel stands back to the florist.

The local florist agreed to accept the once used easels that were not bent or defective, and in turn, would repaint and reuse the easel at no cost to the consumer purchasing an easel spray.

This in turn, helps the cemetery caretaker, the consumer, the florist, the environment, and it also helps the relationship between the funeral home staff and the local florist, by working together and helping cut cost in this struggling economic time.