

Innovative Essay

Honoring Chaplains in Their Service to all Humanity  
Follow Up Interviews

On June 30, 2009 Brucker and Kishler Funeral Home hosted a Chaplains' event , entitled, "Honoring Chaplains in their Service to all Humanity". During the month of June, 2010 a cross section of Chaplains who attended the event were interviewed to see what impact, if any the event had on them and the families they served. The interview was conducted by Bryan Levandusky, a family service coordinator at Brucker & Kishler Funeral Home.

What the staff at Brucker & Kishler found is that a year later the event was still fresh in the minds of the Chaplains. Every one greatly appreciated the recognition. They indicated that even though clergy as a whole often are publically recognized by Funeral Homes, they as Chaplains have never had that distinct honor.

Summarizing the feed-back of the Chaplains in this follow-up to the event on June 30, 2009, we found that the Chaplains were provided with encouragement and great networking throughout the community. Since an event like this had never been done before in this area, they did not know what to expect, and were very pleased with the outcome. They did not know that there were so many Chaplain's in the area. One of the greatest values they took away from the event was that knowing each other meant they knew who to pray for, and with whom they could share.

One aspect of the evening that they appreciated was having families that they served representing and supporting them. It was a great way to reconnect with families, and made to realize the importance of staying connected.

The Chaplains interviewed said it was an enjoyable, humbling experience to be part of such an important ministry; often fulfilling the place with the families just prior to the funeral director. They appreciated the coffee mug thanking them for their service and the coaster reminding them of the ultimate sacrifice given by The Three Immortal Chaplains to save those of all faiths.

The staff at Brucker & Kishler enjoyed honoring those with whom they work in comforting families while they (the funeral directors) prepare a celebration of life for their loved ones. It was an encouragement to them to know that their efforts made a lasting impact on the courageous Chaplains who serve all humanity.