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NFDA's Lesley Witter Named One of Nation's Top Lobbyists by the National Institute for Lobbying & Ethics

Brookfield, Wis. – The National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA) is proud to announce that Lesley Witter, MPA, CAE, Senior Vice President, Advocacy, has been named one of the 2025 Top Lobbyists by the National Institute for Lobbying & Ethics (NILE).

This prestigious, merit-based honor recognizes 100 government affairs professionals nationwide who have demonstrated exceptional legislative success, innovation, integrity and a commitment to ethical advocacy.

While the award celebrates an individual, it also reflects NFDA's powerful leadership and unwavering presence in Washington, D.C., as the only funeral service association with a full-time presence dedicated to representing the profession on Capitol Hill.



"For decades, NFDA has served as the strongest and most trusted voice for funeral service in our nation's capital," said NFDA CEO Christine Pepper, CAE, MBA. "Lesley's recognition as a Top Lobbyist underscores the strength and credibility of our advocacy program. Her expertise, dedication and integrity make her a force in our Nation's Capital. I am honored to work alongside Lesley as we ensure that the needs of funeral service professionals and the grieving families they serve are represented with compassion, integrity and impact."

Witter has led NFDA's advocacy efforts for nearly 19 years, shaping federal policy on behalf of thousands of funeral homes, funeral directors and grieving families nationwide. Her recent achievements include securing protections for embalming under the EPA's final Risk Evaluation of formaldehyde; driving awareness of the need for oversight of the body donation industry; and advancing bipartisan legislation to honor and protect veterans and their families.

"Lobbying and government affairs are essential to democracy because they give everyone a voice," said Witter. "I chose to advocate for funeral service because I believe every voice deserves to be heard, not just the loudest or most powerful. This profession is about service, and lobbying in this space allows me to combine strategic advocacy with purpose-driven work. It's about fairness, representation, and ensuring that those who serve others are not forgotten in the decisions that shape their ability to do so."

NFDA works year-round to monitor federal legislation, engage with agencies and lawmakers, and mobilize members through grassroots initiatives such as the annual NFDA Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C. From workforce challenges to veteran benefits and regulatory reform, NFDA's leadership ensures the profession remains strong, respected and heard.

NFDA is the world's leading and largest funeral service association representing 20,000 individual members who represent nearly 11,000 funeral homes in the United States and 49 countries around the world. NFDA is the trusted leader, beacon for ethics and the strongest advocate for the

profession. NFDA is the association of choice because it offers funeral professionals comprehensive educational resources, tools to manage successful businesses, guidance to become pillars in their communities and the expertise to foster future generations of funeral professionals. NFDA is headquartered in Brookfield, Wis., and has an office in Washington, D.C. For more information, visit NFDA.org.

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