

Brucker & Kishler Funeral Home

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IN LIFE AND DEATH, PETS ARE FAMILY, TOO
Local Community Holds Paws to Remember Event

Adults and children alike feel that they cannot express their feelings when a beloved pet dies. Many feel that they will be misunderstood if they grieve the loss of their pet. The reality is that pets become part of family, which listen to woes, enjoy good times, and comfort in sorrows as true companions. When they are gone, many refer to an emptiness; a heartache.

To acknowledge the special place pets have in our families, Brucker & Kishler, a local funeral home, is hosting the First Annual Paws to Remember – Pets Are Family, Too event. This one of a kind event will bring community support to those grieving lost pets and create a gathering to celebrate the lives of pets and honor the memory of those that have passed. Pets Are Family, Too will also benefit those organizations protecting our families and caring for pets who have not yet found their forever home. All proceeds from the event will be donated to the Newark Police Department K-9 Program and the Licking County Humane Society. Sgt. Eric McKee, of the Newark Police Department, knows the agony felt when a pet, in his case his partner, K-9 Draven, has passed away. Sgt. McKee says of his partner, **“He was my friend, partner, my defender, my dog. I was his life, his love, his leader. He was mine, faithful and true. Until the last beat of his heart. I owe it to him to be worthy of such devotion”**

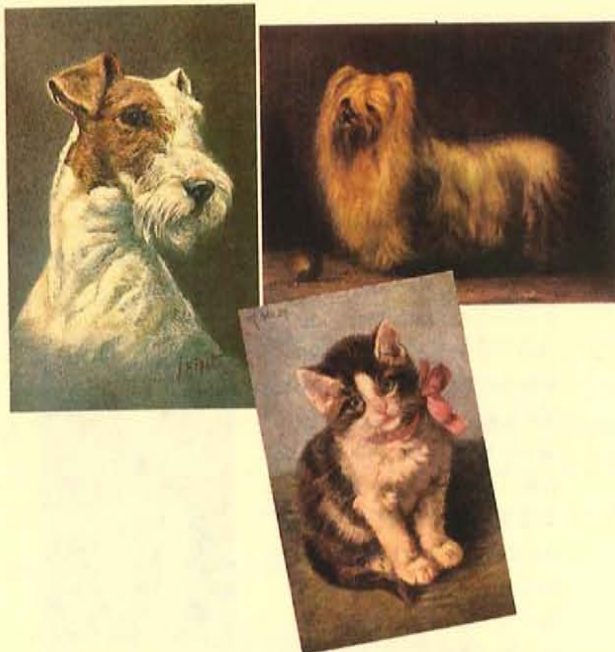
While we can never replace a pet that has passed, many people find volunteering to work with animals or fostering dogs, cats or other furry friends is a way to fill the need for animal companionship and help an animal that has not yet found it's forever home. When, in time, one is ready to once again to welcome a pet into their family, animal adoption can be a wonderful experience to offer a new friend a forever home. Tammy, from the Licking County Humane Society remembers a couple one very cold winter wanting to be foster parents to a “little, teeny” dog. They took Miss Emmy Lou, who ended up being a big dog, fell in love with her, and today the adoption will be final, and Miss Emmy Lou will have a “forever” home.

Pets Are Family, Too will take place on Saturday, June 28 from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Jim Brucker, from the funeral home says that the event will create a special time and place to acknowledge the special place pets occupy in our families. Adoptable pets and volunteers from LCHS will be on hand for introductions or to answer questions about opportunities to give back to the animals that have given us so much. Events range from paw print tattoos for children, a pet talent parade, and a memorial pet picture board, culminating in a memorial balloon release.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Marilyn Beesley at 740-366-3343 or e-mail Marilyn at m_r_beasley@alltel.net

Brochure given out
The Day of Event



Paws to Remember...

Pets Are Family Too

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Balloon for
Memorial Release



Temporary
Paw Print Tattoo

Interment of Items from Traveling Vietnam Wall

First Town Downtown is an organization started to help revitalize the center of Windsor, the oldest town in the State of Connecticut, which was founded in 1633. I, John Carmon, Jr. (Jay), serve on this organization's Board of Directors and my father and uncle, John Carmon and Frank Carmon IV, donate office space to the executive director in the original Carmon Funeral Home, which is now leased office space. In 2005, First Town Downtown heard about the huge impact the Traveling Vietnam Wall had on communities where it was displayed and knew that Windsor's large town green would be a wonderful place to hold this sacred event. Carmon Funeral Homes became the presenting sponsor and the "Wall" arrived in Windsor in April 2006. We had no idea the impact this would have on veterans from all over the Connecticut area. The "Wall" had never come to Connecticut and the media and veterans organizations gave it a great deal of publicity. The three days the "Wall" was here, from the moving escort into town by Vietnam veterans on motorcycles, to all the commemorative events held each day, to the concluding ceremonies, this proved to be one of the most healing and emotional events we could have ever sponsored. Literally, tens of thousands of people came, from all ages, 24 hours a day, so see, reflect, learn, and heal. During this time people were moved to leave things at the wall. While we now know hundreds of men and women left pain, suffering, memories, and dreams that were intangible, they also left medals, flowers, letters, pictures, stuffed animals, a bayonet, and many other tangible things they just needed to "let go of". It was definitely part of the healing experience. When the "Wall" was taken down, these precious items were collected and stored, not knowing then what we should do with them; however knowing they should not be just thrown away.

Thinking of these items, still stored away after 2 years, I decided it was time for a respectful disposition. I conferred with my father and uncle, and they suggested that these items be buried in Windsor's Veterans' Cemetery. First Town Downtown agreed, so I began the process of making all the necessary arrangements. A site was selected just behind a bell tower that a Boy Scout troop had erected between the flagpoles in the front of the cemetery. The town park department agreed to open a small grave, and Carmon Funeral Homes donated a Wilbert Loved and Cherished large enough to accommodate all the items collected. I arranged a service to include local clergy, the local association of Vietnam veterans, the Connecticut Governors Foot Guard, Army National Guard, and members of First Town Downtown. The Connecticut Commissioner of the State Veterans Cemetery asked to come and speak.

The service and "interment" of these items was held on the Thursday evening at 5:30 p.m., a few days before the May 2008 Memorial Day services were to be held at the same location. Everything was done respectfully and with dignity by those to whom it was most meaningful. The casket was placed in the ground so only the top was visible when everyone arrived. The clergy offered prayers for healing and committal, honors were accorded, and the State commissioner spoke. Symbolically, this occurred as the sun set at the end of the day. Over a hundred people attended and the significance of how these items were treated turned out to be very important.

The following Monday at the Memorial Day services the area was consecrated and the assembly was told of the respectful treatment of these sacred items. I arranged for a simple flush marker to be placed over the grave stating simply, " 'We Remember' Here lie the memories of the Traveling Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall, April 24-26, 2006."

As funeral directors, we know full well the value and significance of ritual and ceremony in our lives and how important "personal items" can be when they represent significant events in our lives. It is gratifying to see that my understanding of funeral service was able to make the significance of this event so meaningful for all who participated, and maybe even more importantly for many who were not able to.

John C. Carmon, Jr.
Carmon Community Funeral Homes, Inc.



I. Basic Requirements (E)

- E. On Tuesday March 4, 2008, the Larimer community in Pittsburgh, PA was stricken with yet another tragedy. This time, it was a six-year old boy who died in a fatal fire just one block away from the city's horrific fire that killed five children less than one year ago. In an effort to help save the lives of innocent children in the community in which Coston Funeral Homes, Inc. serves, the funeral home created a **Fire Prevention Room** during the youngsters' visitation.

The **Fire Prevention Room** was created to increase awareness and educate families on fire prevention with interactive demonstrations for both parents and children. The room featured four stations including: (1) A **Stop-Drop-and-Roll** exercise which allowed children to practice with assistance from the staff; (2) **Items that Easily Start Fires** which displayed lit cigarette butts, clothes on a heater and lamp, burning candles, matches and lighters. This station allowed the staff to explain to each child the safety measures children should take and ways in which to avoid fires; (3) A **Coloring Station** which allowed children to draw messages to their lost classmate and friend. Small tables and chairs were arranged along with three ft. easels with *crayola* markers to serve as a register book. Children were also able to sketch out a fire escape route for their homes; (4) **Wall of Fame** which allowed the children to hang messages and artwork they created for Isaiah Marshman.

In addition to creating the **Fire Prevention Room**, the funeral home also offered free *Fire Prevention Kits* to the first 100 families. The kits included one smoke detector with proper installation, battery replacement for up to one year and a fire extinguisher.

In the main chapel, Isaiah was laid out in a "kid-friendly" atmosphere. The young boy was surrounded by things he loved including race cars, a Cadillac Escalade monster wheels truck, and his favorite coloring books. His casket was mounted on colorful building blocks accented with a giant lollipop and gingerbread man. Placed in front of the casket were two park benches for the immediate family to sit while overlooking the play area designed for the six-year old angel.

There was an outpouring of support generated by the community. The local biker club sponsored a benefit dinner that raised money for the burial expenses. Several city officials, clergy, firefighters, policemen and dignitaries came out in support of Isaiah along with many community organizations.

The viewing attracted local media coverage with a headline story in the Pittsburgh Tribune Review along with an entire segment on WPXI's Sunday evening Broadcast. (see attachment I - E)

PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

CITY®ION

SECTION
B
Monday,
March 10,
2008

"I just hope some of the kids here are paying attention and not thinking it can't happen to them."

CHARLENE TRIPLETT

AUNT OF 6-YEAR-OLD FIRE VICTIM ISAIAH MARSHMAN



ANDREW RUSSELL/TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Coston Funeral Home associate Akeeme Robinson shows 5-year-old Lanita Davis how to crawl to an exit in the event of a house fire. The demonstration was put on Sunday during the visitation for Isaiah Marshman, 6, who died Tuesday in a Larimer house fire. The funeral home also handled services for three children who died in a June 12 fire

Funeral home reaches out in wake of fatal fire

A safety demonstration and smoke detectors are offered at the visitation for the 6-year-old victim.

BY BRIAN C. RITTMAYER
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Death long has been a part of Roland Coston-Criswell's life and work, but the recent loss of six children in house fires has taken a toll on the Larimer funeral director.

So on Sunday, Coston-Criswell set up a fire safety education area in a room at his funeral home during visitation for 6-year-old Isaiah Marshman, who died in a fire Tuesday at his home on Winslow Street.

Owner of the Coston Funeral Homes since 2005, Coston-Criswell also set out to give away 100 smoke detectors, for which he was providing installation and, after one year, a new battery.

His funeral home also handled services for three of the five children, ages 3 to 7, who died in a June 12 fire on Winslow Street.

"This is the neighborhood I grew up in. This is my neighborhood. It hurt me that it's happened again," he said. "We not



SUBMITTED

The visitation for Isaiah Marshman drew many children to the funeral home and the fire safety demonstration, including kindergarten classmates from Lincoln Elementary.

only want to provide a funeral service. We want to serve the community. We care." In addition to smoke detectors, there

were fire safety pamphlets provided by city firefighters, mats for children to practice "stop, drop and roll," and examples of

hazards to look for that could cause a fire such as clothes too close to heaters or lamps.

Many children were at the funeral home yesterday, including classmates Marshman, who was in kindergarten Lincoln Elementary School.

Isaiah's family praised Coston-Criswell's efforts and said they hoped would help other parents and children learn how to prevent and escape a fire.

"Hopefully with this incident, the children will be able to see how important it is. It has to be taught," said Marshman's aunt, Charlene Triplett of Bellevue, who survived a fire in the early 1990s with her son, niece and brother in Wilkensburg.

"I just hope some of the kids here are paying attention and not thinking it can happen to them," she said. "Everyone needs to know how to get to safety."

Authorities said the accidental fire the Isaiah's home was caused by an untended pot of grease on a stove. His mother escaped with an 8-month-old son. His sister, Keiyonna, 2, is still recovering and is in stable condition at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, relatives said.

Brian Rittmeyer can be reached at brittmeyer@tribweb.com or 724-779-7101.

ESSAY ON SOLDIERS REUNION BABY PARADE

A "New South" county in North Carolina – a place more known for development and innovation than for moonlight and magnolias – holds the surprising title of host to the oldest continual patriotic festival not associated with a major holiday in the United States. It began in 1889 as a tribute to the region's Confederate heroes and since World War I has honored local veterans of all wars. And Drum Funeral Home plays a major role in the annual summertime celebration: Soldiers Reunion. The funeral home has for many years sponsored the festival's "baby parade," a unique and charming activity aimed at teaching the younger generations the pride of patriotism, keeping families involved in the week-long events of Reunion, and providing that joy of every parent and grandparent showing off the babies and the toddlers.

The baby parade copies the traditional parade through the downtown of Newton, NC, the county seat of Catawba County, when red-white-and-blue are the colors of the day. Since the old veterans in gray shared a picnic "dinner on the grounds" and marched around the dusty Courthouse Square streets in August 1889, floats, bands, beauty queens, fire trucks, politicians, and schoolkids wave more flags than can be found at the Pentagon as they process up and down the streets and circle the Court Square. The baby parade, held the evening before the historic "Reunion Day" – staged for 119 years on the third Thursday of August – involves parading babies and youngsters around the courthouse on sidewalks, riding in contrived conveyances with patriotic themes that are built on baby carriages, strollers, bicycles and tricycles, and wagons. The rules of the judged competition require that every youngster (or family pair or even a few families who bring their triplets) be decked out in patriotic attire and ride in a "vehicle" lavishly decorated in patriotic theme. The typical baby parade – which attracts a crowd of cheering relatives and onlookers – will include tanks, ships, jeeps, miniature parade floats, even airplanes with wings made from boxes, bunting and all sorts of creative homemade materials. Families plan and work on their little ones' entries for weeks before each August contest.

The competition, during which the occasional tearful reluctant babies are never ruled out, is age-divided into four groups: birth to one year old, one to two, two to three and three to four. A cash prize is awarded by the sponsor to the best entry in each category chosen by judges tapped from local community leaders. It all takes place to the music of lively marches with commentary by a local radio personality who has done that job for 18 years and says he considers the baby parade one of his favorite "gigs." Local newspapers and TV stations cover the event and publicize the wee winners and their beaming parents. The funeral home publicizes the baby parade for several weeks before the festival and receives many phone calls each year asking about details. Callers are reminded that the baby parade is free for both the entrants and the audience, as is the policy of Soldiers Reunion events, which the sponsor of the baby parade and the local government officials plan as their yearly gift to the citizens.

Drum Funeral Home has sponsored the baby contest for the past 18 years. That part of the Soldiers Reunion celebration began in the 1930's but was suspended several decades later. It was revived in the 1990s; the funeral home company undertook the popular

project and quickly made it one of the most anticipated activities of the week – which include a classic car show and “cruising,” pet show, gospel, bluegrass and beach music outdoor concerts on the courthouse lawn, a street dance , three nights of beauty pageants age-divided to include little girls from toddlers to Miss America hopefuls in the community auditorium, softball, tennis, and horseshoe pitching tournaments, a senior citizens’ dance, a 30-60-100-mile bicycle race throughout the county, a 5-K footrace and 1-mile run, and a mini-carnival with riding devices. The Soldiers Reunion festival has a different patriotic theme each year, and the baby parade uses the theme in its decorative rule. In 2007 the theme was “For God and Country;” the 2008 theme is “Preserving Our Freedom.”

Personnel from the funeral home and family members of the staff volunteer annually to assist with the baby parade, which the company’s public relations consultant coordinates. A sample press release from the 2007 event is attached and offers an indication of the pride which our company officials and staff take in sponsoring this very special event each year.

'A grateful nation remembers'



O-N-E photos by Sarah Newell

Above, Chinese Crested dog Jaybird (for Naked As A) got gussied up in patriotic colors to enter the best costume contest in Soldiers Reunion Pet Mania event Wednesday evening. Right, 2-year-old Christopher Campbell won the Baby Parade in the 2-3-year-old age category Wednesday afternoon. About 45 children under the age of four entered the four age categories this year, with four winners that were selected.

The Wednesday night festivities were part of Newton's annual Soldiers Reunion Week. Activities hit their peak today with the Reunion Day program on the Courthouse Square. The program begins at 4 p.m. After the program, the annual Soldiers Reunion parade will snake through downtown Newton beginning after 5 p.m. Following the parade the street dance will conclude the day's events. For complete Baby Parade winners, please see page 12 in today's O-N-E.



A Unique Twist on Traditional Grief Support

By Erlewein Mortuaries

In the Fall of 2002, Erlewein Mortuary recognized a need in our community for a unique type of grief support. Fortunately, our community already had traditional grief support groups in place where individuals would gather and discuss their journey through grief and receive emotional support from others. However, we believed that the growing number of widow and widowers in our community did not have any social outlet. Once their loved one had passed away, many of them became shut-ins, rarely leaving their homes.

We determined that we would start a group, called "Widow to Widow", where we would plan short trips to local restaurants for lunch. The idea was to engage those who had lost loved ones in a relaxed atmosphere with others who had similar experiences. Our Family Aftercare Director would plan all the trips and accompany the group on those trips.

Knowing that many in the potential group did not want to arrive at a restaurant alone, we decided that we would provide transportation from our mortuary to the venue at no charge. Those accompanying us on each trip would pay for their own lunch or dinner. We used our company minivan for transportation and delivered them directly to the "front door" of the venue. This way, guests would have no worries about driving in traffic, parking, or walking long distances.

In the beginning, we believed it was very important to keep the cost of the trip to a minimum. Our first trip was much less than a success. We had only one person show up. However, we did not give up; we sent press releases to the newspaper about the trips. Our next trip doubled in size – two people showed up! We were determined that more people in our community would benefit from this program, though, so we pushed on.

We decided that we had to "get the word out" and were certain that more people would attend the trips if we could accomplish this. So, we took flyers to the library, the senior center, and churches; mailed invitations to all the families we had served in the past two years; continued to send press releases to the newspapers; and talked about the trips to everyone we could.

Each month the number of attendees grew and grew. Within six months, we had an average of 20 people attending each trip. Those attending had requests that we did not see coming: they wanted to venture out more often, go to more places than just a lunch or dinner, and the price of the trip didn't matter as much as we had thought it did.

We are fortunate to have the city of Indianapolis within a 20-minute drive, so the variety of options is nearly endless. In addition to the daytime outing, we began planning an evening outing. We had learned that some people wanted to attend the trips, but they had a job during the day that prevented them from doing so. With the addition of evening events came the need to add pick-up and drop-off services for those who do not, or can

not, drive at night. We began picking guests up at their homes before each event and taking them home after each event. We would even walk them into their homes and take a “look around” to be sure they were safe before we left.

With evening events, the options for differing events dramatically increased. They now ranged from trips to dinner theatres, attending the Indianapolis Indians baseball games, visiting a large dairy operation (Fair Oaks Farms), going to several museums, listening to the Indianapolis Symphony Orchestra perform at the “Symphony on the Prairie” while enjoying a fully catered meal under the evening stars, taking a horse-drawn carriage ride through the holiday-decorated streets of downtown Indianapolis, making their very own piece of pottery, and even horse racing.

The response was more than we had expected. With each success came new challenges. Transportation and drivers started to become an issue. Originally, our Family Aftercare Director could handle the small group with our one minivan, but that was no longer the case. We now had to use our personal van, as well. Finding drivers sometimes proved to be a challenge. However, many of our part-time employees were more than willing to drive to events. We paid for them to attend the events (meal, tickets, etc.), and – perhaps without even recognizing it – our part-time employees became a vital part of one of our aftercare programs.

In 2007, the business was in need of another service vehicle. The obvious choice for us was another minivan to act as a service vehicle, flower vehicle, and – of course – “Widow to Widow” transportation. The number attending each event had grown even larger. Now as many as 50 people would attend each event. We used our two company minivans, our personal minivan, and any other van we could borrow from family and friends. Due to the large number of attendees, transportation had become a very difficult part of planning each trip. Then we received the answer to our prayers. A local church had recently purchased a motor coach that could seat 48 people. They believed so much in the service that we were trying to provide that they offered their motor coach to us at half the rate at which they offered it to others. Though the charge was still quite high, it relieved a huge burden from our transportation needs.

In 2007, we began thinking about changing the name of the “Widow to Widow” program. This was in response to many people asking if they could attend even if they were not a widow or widower. Many of them were caregivers (e.g., those who care for a homebound loved) who wished to “get out” on a more regular basis. In 2008, the name “Widow to Widow” was officially dropped in favor of “Erlewein Adventures.”

Our event schedule is now available on our web site and is also included as a major part of our quarterly newsletter, which is sent to over 6,000 people. Furthermore, each family we serve is given a description of the group and an event schedule. There is no club to join, no fee to pay, and no obligation to attend any event. The attendees simply choose which event or events they wish to attend and call us to RSVP.

We have had many people say, "What a great idea! I bet you get a lot of business from that." The truth is that we do, indeed, get a good deal of both at-need and pre-need business from it. However, our goal is, and always has been, to provide people who have lost a loved one – or who are caring for a loved one – with the opportunity to enjoy life again. Our Family Aftercare Director and part-time employees who assist with the events are instructed not to discuss anything about funerals unless they are specifically asked about funerals by a guest.

From the numerous thank you notes, appreciative phone calls, and kind words, we believe we have achieved our goal – which we continue to achieve each month. Collectively, we have served over 500 people with this program. Amazingly, we have had two weddings stem from people meeting at these events! Numerous friendships have developed between the attendees – many of which spawned unrelated trips to the movies, lunch, or shopping. We are so blessed to be able to bring this ever-changing, ever-growing group together twice each month!

Erlewein Adventures / Widow to Widow

Looking for a fun night out? A new adventure during the day? We've got a great idea! Join us for an Erlewein Adventure / Widow to Widow trip! As always, there are no fees to join; no obligation to attend events; no "club" to join. You simply attend trips as you like. We provide transportation from our mortuary in Greenfield to and from each event. We also provide pick up and drop off service at your door - in case you are unable to drive yourself to our mortuary in Greenfield. Trips have LIMITED AVAILABILITY... so call soon to reserve your seat!



Thursday, Feb. 7, 2008, 11:30 a.m.: "Doubt" is a Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning play about a nun's certainty and faith in her own beliefs. Come with us to Indiana Repertory Theatre where a tale of moral indecision becomes one of mystery. Lunch at

McAlister's Deli, dutch treat. \$36 includes admission.

***Paid RSVP by 1-2-08**

Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2008, 10:00 a.m.: Visit the historic Lockerbie Square home where Hoosier poet James Whitcomb Riley spent the last 23 years of his life. Many of Riley's personal belongings are showcased here. Lunch at the Rathskeller, dutch treat. Must be able to negotiate stairs. \$8 includes admission.

***Paid RSVP by 1-10-08**

Thursday, Mar. 6, 2008, 10:45 a.m.: Visit the Museum of Miniature Houses and Other Collections in Carmel. View many collections including miniature houses, seasonal exhibits, and traveling collections. Lunch at Kona Jack's, dutch treat. \$9 includes admission. ***Paid RSVP by 2-1-08**

Monday, Mar. 17, 2008, 5:00 p.m.: Join us for dinner at Benihana at Keystone at the Crossing! It's a traditional Japanese hibachi-style dinner, where your meal is prepared and served by a performing chef, right at your table! Dutch treat. \$8

***Paid RSVP by 2-1-08**



Tuesday, April 1, 2008, 5:00 p.m.:

Join us for Beef-N-Boards "Showboat." This classic musical will sweep you away with songs like "Ol' Man River" and

"Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man of Mine." Price includes show and dinner with tea or coffee. \$46

***Paid RSVP by 2-20-08**



Tuesday, April 15, 2008, 11:30 a.m.: Spend an afternoon in Noblesville learning to paint your own pottery at Kiln Creations. We will paint, glaze, and fire our own pottery to take home. Dutch treat lunch at Asian Grill. \$16 plus the cost of your chosen pottery piece (\$4-\$55) ***Paid RSVP by 3-1-08**

Thursday, May 8, 2008, 4:45 p.m.:

Two English Shakespearean actors devise a get-rich-quick scheme that lands them in high heels with hilarious results in "Leading Ladies" at Civic

Theatre. Dutch treat dinner at MCL Cafeteria. \$35 includes admission.

***Paid RSVP by 3-20-08**

Tuesday, May 20th, 2008, 10:45 a.m.: Take a guided tour through the Eiteljorg Museum and enjoy the pottery, sculpture, basketry, and other artifacts of Native American Culture. Must be able to negotiate stairs. Dutch treat lunch at the Sky City Café \$17 includes admission. ***Paid RSVP by 4-1-08**

Monday, June 2, 2008, 5:00 p.m.: Join us for dinner at Loon Lake Lodge in Castleton. This unique restaurant is modeled after an Adirondack mountain fishing lodge with unique mountain themed décor and a 1700 gallon aquarium! Dutch treat. \$6

***Paid RSVP by 5-1-08**

*Transportation provided for trips - some with **motorcoach**. Trips leave from Erlewein Mortuaries, 1484 W US 40, Greenfield. No refunds after RSVP date; however, you may transfer your ticket to another person. For more info or to **RSVP**, call 467-4918.*

GRIEF COUNSELING CENTER

Here, two hundred fifty thousand people have found help in mitigating the pain, despondency and solitude caused by the loss of their loved ones. A pioneering program and a model in Colombia and Latin America

In view of the drama of the different expressions of violence present in Medellín and Antioquia during the 90's, which left profound sequels of pain in our city, at the beginning of 1998, Funeraria San Vicente created the Grief Counseling Center, with the unwavering purpose of giving a complete and totally gratuitous assistance to people who were suffering because of the loss of their loved ones, with no consideration being given to age, social condition or links with the organization.

This program, with its headquarters occupying a modern three story building on Carrera 51D N° 59-87, Juan del Corral Avenue and Miranda Street, and which is part of the company's social balance, has given attention to over two hundred fifty thousand people, giving them specialized attention, following them up, supervising them and imparting help throughout their traumatic and painful process. An accompaniment that has helped to reduce pain, despondency and the solitude of those in grief.

Its work is based on education and total assistance for those affected, whether adults or children, in such a way that their development can follow a normal course, making it possible to identify obsessive risk factors and distortional reactions.

The Grief Counseling Center's prestige has transcended regional and national frontiers, its model becoming a pioneer in Colombia and Latin America. Dr. Jorge Montoya Carrasquilla, a world authority on the topic, occupies the Scientific Direction while Alonso Correa Cataño has the Executive Direction of this program that has become a laboratory for the community, the universities and the funeral sector.

In February 2006, Funeraria San Vicente signed an alliance with Medellín Town Hall, in order to offer assistance to victims of violence of different sectors of the city that it accompanies because of its being a funeral home.

Through its Grief Counseling Center, Funeraria San Vicente has established a new link-project with the Family Group of the Sodality of Mary.

SERVICIOS DE LA UNIDAD DE DUELO DE FUNERARIA SAN VICENTE S. A.



Unidad de Duelo

Permítanos ayudarle,
su dolor también es nuestro compromiso.



Honor Guard Public Relations Video

We are fortunate to have a local Veteran's Honor Guard who serves at several funerals, memorial services and graveside services. The Honor Guard is staffed by volunteers whose service spans from WWII to Operation Iraqi Freedom. They service a seven-county area and provide military honors to the families of local veterans free of charge.

We have hosted an Appreciation Dinner for members of the Honor Guard and their spouses for several years and have presented a donation each year to help cover transportation and other expenses they incur while providing military honors. Each event has been well-attended and the contribution is always appreciated by the group.

This year we wanted to continue the tradition, but also wanted to show our appreciation for their efforts in an innovation way. At our annual appreciation event, we surprised them with a DVD that we produced depicting their service at several funerals and memorial services over the past couple of years. The video showed various scenes of the Honor Guard and was set to patriotic music. Members of the group and their spouses were visibly moved as they watched the video presentation. We gave each member a copy and provided extra copies for them to use in group presentations at local schools, civic and church groups and community events.

The feedback we received from the group was incredible. Some members wanted extra copies to share with their children and grandchildren. They have used the DVD in presentations to increase community awareness about the significance of funeral military honors, and have also used it as a tool to recruit new volunteers.

We featured the video on the community section of our website and ran a press release with a photo to our local paper. We plan to use some of the photos in advertisements in local publications for Veteran's Day. This project is practical for almost any size firm and requires minimal investment, using tools and skills already available.

The Honor Guard video gave us another opportunity to showcase the value of video tributes and continues to create goodwill for our community, our veterans and our funeral home.



Soldier Bear

On January 6, 2008, Jim Bob Humphrey, President and general manager of Humphrey Funeral Service, Inc. in Russellville, Arkansas gathered with community leaders at First Baptist Church for a farewell ceremony in honor of the soldiers of the 1-206th Field Artillery Battalion of the Arkansas Army National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade. Mr. Humphrey is founder and Chairman of the Pope County Salute to Freedom Committee. The committee organizes projects which honor and support veterans and their family members. The farewell ceremony had been hastily put together following the Christmas holiday by Humphrey and his committee to pray for the soldiers and their families prior to their deployment to Iraq. The local headquarters and headquarters battery along with Golf company soldiers, totaling 150 soldiers, gathered surrounded by family and friends and community leaders at 4pm on the Friday afternoon.



Pre-deployment ceremony at First Baptist Church on January 6, 2008.

Humphrey and other committee members noted with special interest the significant number of women soldiers. They later learned that the entire battalion of 600 soldiers included 43 women guard soldiers, most of them in their 20's and 30's and the majority were also mothers. Another striking component of the gathering were the young children. Sad faced and teary eyed children sat and prayed along with the group for strength and for the safe return of their father's or in some cases their mothers.

The previous November, Humphrey had attended the birthday party of his only grandson, Landon Morgan Humphrey in Rogers, Arkansas. The birthday party was held at the Build-a-Bear workshop and Humphrey had noted with great interest the process of each child receiving his own bear and placing a special heart token in the bear. Each child seemed genuinely happy to receive his/her own personalized bear. Humphrey began researching the Build-a-Bear in late December thinking about a special project for the 1-206th soldiers who were soon to deploy to Iraq.

So Humphrey announced at the ceremony that the Salute to Freedom Committee would be providing a Build-a-Bear teddy bear for each child of the headquarters and headquarters battery and Golf company. Humphrey called a meeting of his committee and announced his intention to provide a bear for each of the children of the headquarters battery and also announced that if funding could be raised additional bears should be purchased for all of the children of the 600 soldiers comprising the entire battalion.

The committee, comprised of community leaders from veterans organizations, county and city government, the local chamber of commerce, and newspaper responded with unanimous support for the project.

Humphrey contacted Build-a-Bear Workshop's corporate headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri regarding the possibility of a corporate discount and partnership in the project. Marilyn Freundlich, chief Marketing and Sales Bear for the company was very supportive of the idea and agree to provide the bear and related merchandise at a 30% discount to the committee.

Humphrey selected from the Build-a-Bear website the 14" tall Curly Bear along with the desert camouflage army uniform, which included a beret and dog bear tags. Also available was a special sound module on which could be recorded 10 seconds of each soldier's voice.



Humphrey then contacted his close friend, then LTC Keith Klemmer of the 39th Brigade regarding a census of children of the soldiers who were deploying to Iraq from the 1-206th Field Artillery Battalion. LTC Klemmer learned that according to National Guard records there were approximately 540 children, ages 0 to 17 belonging to the soldiers who were deploying to Iraq.

Humphrey came to believe that the most important part of this project was the sound module on which each soldier could record his or her own personal message of love and comfort to his or her child. The module would then be inserted into the bear's paw so that when the child pushes on the bear's paw, the voice of their soldier parent would play for 10 seconds.

The funds needed for the project were as follows:

Sound modules	\$8.00	Less 30%	= 5.60	x 600	= \$3,360.00
Uniforms	\$12.00	Less 30%	= 8.40	x 600	= \$5,040.00
16" Curly	\$16.00	Less 30%	= 11.20	x 600	= \$6,720.00
Subtotal			25.20		= \$15,120.00
Ark Sales Tax @ 7.5%			1.89		1,134.00
Grand Total			27.09		<u>\$16,254.00</u>

Humphrey began contacting local businesses which had supported prior veterans and active-duty soldiers events about contributing the funds needed for the bears. In past project 6 outstanding local businesses had unwritten project costs of \$15-20,000 with contributions of \$3,000 each. But the local bank, hospital president, and other sponsors told him that the economy was so bad that they were dealing with budget cuts and they would not be able to underwrite the entire project. So Humphrey took his cause to the public through an article in the local newspaper. The article headlines read "600 Bears to be Purchased for Children of Soldiers". The article informed the public that all we need is for 600 people to send \$20.00 each over the next 10 days and we would be able to purchase a bear for every child of every

soldier in the 206th Field Artillery Battalion. Amazingly, over the next 10 days, we collected over \$10,000 made up of \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 gifts from hundreds of concerned citizens.

The order for the 600 sound modules was placed in mid February. The modules were shipped to Humphrey Funeral Service where staff members placed each module in a plastic sandwich baggie with a label on which the soldier could write his/her information.

The 600 sound modules were delivered to Camp Shelby in Mississippi where our soldiers were receiving training prior to their deployment to Iraq in early March 2008. 418 soldiers actually recorded up to 10 seconds on a module and recorded their personal information along with the name and shipping information for their child. The modules were delivered back to Humphrey Funeral Service. Humphrey Funeral Service staff recorded the information from each module in a master excel spreadsheet and then shipped the modules to Build-a-Bear Workshop headquarters. Four weeks later Humphrey received notification from Build-a-bear workshop that 418 bears would be arriving at the offices of the Russellville Chamber of Commerce on May 1st.



On May 7th and 8th members of the Salute To Freedom committee met at the chamber offices to re-package the bears into their individual condos (cardboard box homes) and sort them into 6 battery groupings.

At 10 am On Tuesday, May 13th a ceremony was held at the Russellville Chamber of Commerce offices by the Pope County Salute to Freedom Committee. Attending the ceremony were The Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard along with other general officers, area community leaders including several city Mayors and state political leaders. Each of the 6 batteries making up the 1-206th Field Artillery were represented by one or two children and their mothers. Photos and a press release for the ceremony follow:

418 Build-a-bear Workshop® teddy bears standing 14" tall and smartly dressed in desert Khaki uniforms complete with dog-tags bear-tags stood boxed and ready for delivery to 418 children whose soldier-parent is currently deployed to Iraq. Approximately 600 soldiers of the 1-206th Field Artillery Battalion deployed to Iraq in March of this year after spending about 8 weeks training at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. The 1-206th FA is one of 6 Battalions making up the Arkansas National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade.

On Tuesday, May 12, 2008 the Pope County Salute to Freedom Task Force held a ceremonial presentation of the first "Soldier Bear(s)" to the children of soldiers who are deployed. The event took place at the Russellville Chamber of Commerce community room at 708 West Main Street in Russellville. Lasting approximately 25 minutes, the ceremony included a symbolic presentation of 418 "Soldier Bears". One child from each battery comprising the 1-206th was selected to receive his/her bear on behalf of the children of the soldiers in that battery as follows: HHB-Russellville, Golf Company-Russellville, Alpha Battery-Morrilton & Perryville, Bravo Battery-Dardanelle and Paris, the 1038th Engineers-North Little Rock and the 1123rd Battery-Blytheville & Little Rock.

Each "Soldier Bear" contains a special sound module about the size of an Oreo® cookie inside its right paw. When the bear's paw is pressed, the sound module will play up to 10 seconds of the voice of the child's parent/soldier. The sound modules were delivered to the soldiers during pre-deployment training at Camp Shelby just days prior to their deployment to Iraq. The very first bear was presented to LTC Damon Cluck, 1-206th F.A. Commander and to his wife, MAJ Brenda Cluck for their one year old daughter at Camp Shelby, Mississippi just prior to MAJ Cluck's deployment.



Inspiration for the event came to committee member and Chairman, Jim Bob Humphrey, during a pre-deployment ceremony held at First Baptist Church in Russellville on January 6th. That day approximately 150 soldiers assigned to HHB (Headquarters and Headquarters Battery) and Golf Company gathered along with family members and community supporters at the ceremony to pray for the soldiers. Committee members noted with special interest the number of Small children and also the increased number of women soldiers who were deploying with the 1-206th (approximately 40 women of the nearly 600 soldiers who have deployed with the 1-206th). The Committee's Leadership wanted to do something which would be meaningful to both the soldier and his/her family members. Mr. Humphrey commented that Build-a-bear Workshop® has delighted many children and adults alike with their cute bears and large selection of outfits, including a full line of military uniforms." We contacted Build-a-bear's® Corpbearate Bearquarters® in St. Louis, Missouri to discuss the project. They were very supportive and enthusiastic and agreed to provide the bears at a 30% discount and to donate the shipping costs to Russellville.

The project was funded by contributions from individual citizens and businesses primarily in Pope and Yell Counties. The Salute to Freedom Task Force wishes to express their appreciation to the citizens who made this project a reality. We began our fund raising efforts in mid January of this year", remarked Chairman Humphrey. After several weeks of hearing 'just how bad the economy is' from national media, the committee decided to place an article in the local newspaper.

The article byline read: "All We Need Is for 600 people to send us \$20 in the next 10 days to provide a bear for our children". "And you know what? That's exactly what the people did!" I believe it to be truly remarkable when you see families and individuals whose budgets are stretched so tightly - and they hear about a need like "Soldier Bear" and they just say to themselves, "Surely I/we can afford \$20 to support the child of a soldier who is serving our country!" "It is our belief that our soldiers best know that their sacrifices are appreciated when they see not just the physical needs of their families being met, but also the emotional needs of their wives, husbands and children being addressed." Humphrey added.

Major General William D. Wofford, Adjutant General of the Arkansas National Guard brought a response at the close of the ceremony on behalf of the soldiers who are currently deployed. Major General Wofford was appointed as The Adjutant General, Arkansas National Guard, on February 16, 2007. Additionally MAJ Brenda Cluck spoke on behalf the soldier's family members and spouses. MAJ Brenda Cluck is 1-206th Battalion FRG (Family Readiness Group) Liaison. She also served in the 39th Brigade's 2003-2005 deployment to Iraq.



If you are interested in supporting "Soldier Bear" visit their website at www.soldierbear.org for more information on how to nominate a child/soldier for a free bear. The website also contains information on how to donate to the organization.

A Battalion of 418 Bears





Jim Bob Humphrey, President of Humphrey Funeral Service and Chairman of the Pope County Salute to Freedom Committee, provides a welcome to guests at the Soldier Bear Presentation Ceremony.

The project has been so well received that Humphrey and his committee decided to continue the project and to expand it to the remaining 2700 soldiers of the 39th Brigade in Arkansas. The process will be accomplished through a website set up for the committee by James Humphrey, Jim Bob's son who also works for Humphrey Funeral Service as IT director.

The website allows a deployed soldier to register himself and his/her child to receive a Soldier Bear and to record his or her voice via computer with internet connection. The information and recorded wav file are then downloaded to the funeral home's local computer system and the wav file is played over speakers which allow the soldiers voice to be recorded on a bear sound module. The module is then placed into a bear and the bear is shipped to the child.



**BLUE LIGHT
CHOOSE RIGHT**
It could be YOUR family

338-344 Conklin Ave
Binghamton, NY 13903

607. 724-1415

BLUE LIGHT CHOOSE RIGHT CAMPAIGN

THE BLUE LIGHT CHOOSE RIGHT public service/public relations campaign is designed to increase awareness among motorists about the courtesy of pulling over to the right lane or shoulder of the road to allow emergency responders to pass by quicker. Many times motorists are not even aware or don't understand that a blue flashing light in New York is a volunteer emergency person responding to a fire or medical emergency call. When motorists pull over to the right the response time to an emergency scene is decreased and helps to save lives and minimize property damage.

A Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) is normally reached the same way as other emergency services, by calling 9-1-1. A dispatcher then dispatches the VFD through pagers and/or radios. Response times may be slightly longer than with paid responders because the members must come from different distances to a central station, then respond in emergency vehicles. New York State permits VFD members to equip their privately owned vehicles with special emergency lights (flashing blue lights). Blue lights may only be on when responding to an emergency operation, but responders must still follow all state vehicle and traffic laws.

Peter G Savage, CFSP, Owner of Savage Funeral Service and also an interior firefighter with a local Volunteer Fire Department was inspired in 2008 by personal experience to create and launch the **BLUE LIGHT CHOOSE RIGHT** campaign. The goal is to increase public awareness of a blue lights purpose and alert motorists to the emergency responders. The desire is to get a driver to think about the possibility that it could be a member of their family in need of emergency services. Those precious moments saved by pulling over to the right and letting the responder pass could save a life or their own property.

Peter G. Savage, CFSP and his graphic designer worked for several months designing the bumper sticker. Every part of the original design went through changes; the words, Blue Light choose right changed to Blue Light Merge Right and then back again to Blue Light Choose Right. The color scheme originally started with black letters and a black and red fire logo, the letters and the logo went through multiple changes before choosing the final version that was printed and distributed to all thirty-five Volunteer Fire Departments in Broome County.

The campaign began with all thirty-five Broome County volunteer Fire Departments; only three departments in the county have paid firefighter/medics, receiving a letter explaining the campaign. Enclosed were **BLUE LIGHT CHOOSE RIGHT** bumper stickers and information on how to order more for the members of their fire department. Current support includes not only the Fire Departments but also; New York State Senate Majority Deputy Leader Thomas W. Libous; Broome County Sheriff David Harder, the New York State Governor's Arson Board, with plans to include the information on their website; The Broome County Firefighters Association and listed on their web site, www.broomefire.com; donation of a booth at the Firefighters Expo 2008 to promote the campaign further; and the local Uno Chicago Grill Restaurant scheduling a no-cost fundraiser to help raise approximately \$3,000 in support money.

The first phase of the campaign is to raise awareness of what a blue light is and how it alerts motorists to emergency responders. Every Church in Broome County received a letter on the **BLUE LIGHT CHOOSE RIGHT** campaign along with a bumper sticker picture to post on their bulletin boards and place in their weekly bulletins. The second phase of the campaign is to expand the campaign into surrounding contiguous counties and then expand throughout New York State utilizing billboard, television, print, and radio campaigns to continue to increase awareness amongst all motorists.

E. Best of The Best

Broome County Firefighters Association – Request to post BLUE LIGHT CHOOSE RIGHT campaign on their website, www.broomefire.com

Page 1 of 1

SavageFS

From: "Broome County Firefighters' Assoc." <broomecfire@stny.rr.com>
To: "SavageFS" <SavageFS@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2008 12:13 PM
Subject: Re: BLUE LIGHT CHOOSE RIGHT

Sharon:

Thank you so much. I will post this on the county web page, if that is okay with you. This is an excellent idea. Is it okay to make copies of this bumper sticker on plain paper just to display? I was thinking many fire companies might want to display information about this with a copy of the bumper sticker to promote blue light courtesy.

Do you plan to promote this with the local media? It would be a great help to all volunteer fire companies to educate the public about blue lights.

Also, our fire expo is Sept. 6, at Port Crane Fire. If you would like to have a table to sell these bumper stickers and promote blue light courtesy we'd be glad to donate a space for you.

Thanks,
Alice J. Flacco, Secretary
Broome County Firefighters' Association

----- Original Message -----
From: SavageFS
To: broomecfire@stny.rr.com

Broome County Firefighters' Association

Page 1 of 2



BROOME COUNTY FIREFIGHTERS' ASSOCIATION BROOME COUNTY, NEW YORK

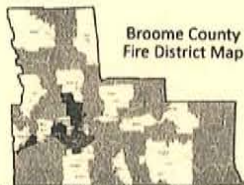
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Welcome...

The Broome County Firefighters' Association, Inc., is an organization of fire companies, both volunteer and career, located in Broome County New York. The organization fosters cooperation and communication among fire companies, strives to keep firefighters and fire company officials informed and educated about a variety of aspects including education, training and legislation. The organization also works to promote fire safety education and sponsors the Broome County Fire Safety Trailer. The association is dedicated to being the unified voice of firefighters and fire companies in Broome County. To assist us in our goal, the Association publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, the Broome County "Fire News" which is sent out to all fire companies and members of the organization. For information on joining, visit our membership page.

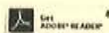
FIRE EXPO 2008



Click here for more information on Broome County.

This site contains several files in PDF format.

Click here to obtain a free PDF viewer.



Current News

06-15-08	Audit money better equipment
06-11-08	Important Inform. Volunteer Firefighter T
06-11-08	NYS Senate passed th Services Volunteer Inc
06-03-08	New campaign encc courtesy
05-29-08	Fatal fires have n detectors in common
05-22-08	Fire Commissioner tra online
05-22-08	Classes offered on Cla
05-12-08	Chiefs invited to meeting on Fire/EMS
05-09-08	Improper Set-up of A-Locking Waterway Ne at Risk
05-09-08	Many Summer events

Click Here for more news...

Volunteers Needed

Do you have some extra time? to make a difference? Fire and always looking for volunteers to live in Broome County and becoming a volunteer, click information!

Photos

