



P.O. Box 395, Hanover, VA 23069 •
Phone: (804) 264-0505 • Fax: (804) 264-3260

May 6, 2014

Dear VFDA Members,

The Virginia Funeral Directors Association (VFDA) is asking you to contribute to the annual Professional Futures Fund. As you know, this dedicated fund is used solely for the purpose of advocacy and lobbying for our profession on the state and national levels. VFDA is the voice for all Virginia funeral service practitioners.

The VFDA polled its membership last summer and the number one reason why professionals like you are members of our organization is because of the lobbying we offer every year. We understand this is an important part of your membership. The association's board of directors made changes to our lobbying team and believe we are in the forefront of legislation during the Virginia General Assembly session. We will continue to grow in the legislative arena, with our new team of lobbyist who are working on your behalf.

Because of your past support, members of the Virginia General Assembly consider the VFDA to be the leading voice and recognized government liaison for our profession. This VFDA leadership role for our industry has been built over many years through the efforts of our dedicated advocacy team working under the direction of our legislative committee. The VFDA is the first called by state agencies and is recognized by legislators and aides as the primary association in the state. Your association is the first to communicate statements on legislation that is later used to help guide other state associations in Virginia. The legislative committee consistently seeks your questions and advice on all issues and with legal and professional guidance from our lobbying team, setting aside personal agendas to do what is best for the funeral service industry.

The 2014 legislative session was a productive one for the endeavors of the VFDA. Your legislative team along with committee members worked to get the following bills passed this past session:

HB 541-O'Bannon- Death; changes definition of brain death

HB 588-O'Quinn- Cemetery Board; powers and duties, special interments

HB 924-O'Bannon- Chief Medical Examiner, Office of; powers and duties, medicolegal death examinations.

HB 997-Anderson- Cemeteries; procedure for removal and relocation of human remains.

HB 1171-Marshall- Confederate cemeteries & graves; changes entity responsible for care of graves in Pittsylvania Co.

SB 77-Martin- Disposition of remains; absence of next of kin, prerequisites for cremation.

SB 108-Stanley-Confederate cemeteries & graves; changes entity responsible for care of graves in Pittsylvania Co.



P.O. Box 395, Hanover, VA 23069 •

Phone: (804) 264-0505 • Fax: (804) 264-3260

SB 304-Alexander- Dead human bodies; establishes a process for disposition for unclaimed bodies.

HB 611-Robinson- Health regulatory boards; denial or suspension of a license, certificate or registration, exception.

HB 855-Garrett- Health regulatory boards; reinstatement of licensure.

HB 891-Peace-Health regulatory boards; powers and duties, special conference committees.

SB 60-Puller- Health Care, Joint Commission on; extends sunset provision.

SB 346-Edwards- Wills, trusts, and fiduciaries; increasing various allowances and other threshold amounts.

Our state lobbying and advocacy efforts also extend to issues that come before the Virginia Board of Funeral Directors & Embalmers where our team represents the interests of VFDA members in matters ranging from licensing to continuing education.

On the national level, the VFDA works closely with the National Funeral Directors Association to lobby Congress for legislation that is vital to our industry.

None of these efforts would be possible without your continued financial support of our Professional Futures Fund. Contributions to the Fund retain qualified lobbyists to lead our government relations efforts.

Please contribute to support the funding of this important program. It means your interests are being protected.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Lacy Whittaker'.

Lacy S. Whittaker
Executive Director