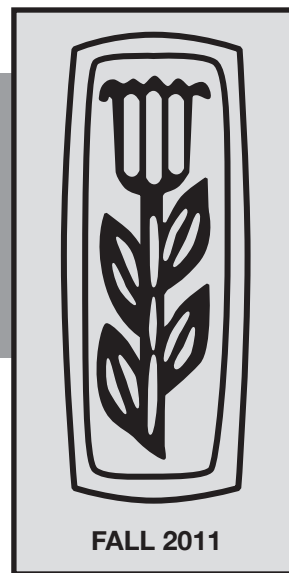


FCA REPORT

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FCA-GKC



Some cooperate, some don't in cemetery price survey

By Steve Nicely
FCA-GKC president

Welcome to our metropolitan-wide survey of cemetery prices and services, our first in many years. You will notice something strange when you open the newsletter to the survey on pages 4 and 5. There are about as many blank lines after the cemetery names as there are filled-in lines.



Why is this so? We can only speculate, but first we must express gratitude to the cemetery operators who filled out their surveys and sent them in. They seem to recognize the function of the survey as a public service, which is the sole reason for the existence of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Greater Kansas City. The responders were willing to lay out their prices for all to see, even the competition. What do you think, will the blank-line cemetery operators visit our website, www.funeralskc.org, for a peek at the responders' numbers?

Now go to our website for the Funeral Price Survey of funeral homes in the metropolitan area and see that virtually all of the price lines are filled in. That is because the Federal Trade Commission's Funeral Rule requires funeral homes to provide price lists to all who asks for them, but there is no such thing as a "cemetery rule" covering cemeteries. Should there be? The Funeral Consumers Alliance believes so.

FCA-GKC observed its 50th anniversary last month (see Jim Fitzpatrick's story) demonstrating our long history educating the public about the funeral home and burial industries. We appreciate

reputable, ethical, service-oriented providers. We know price isn't everything. There are some well-managed, beautifully maintained cemeteries in the area with well-endowed maintenance trust funds that charge higher prices than others. Sometimes people pay for what they get. Still, price is the basic beginning point in a consumer's examination of cemetery options and we think providing this information publicly is a good practice.

One cemetery operator in the Gardner area wouldn't even give us an address. We were told they didn't want people outside Gardner trying to buy plots. What about the several thousand people in Gardner? Wouldn't they like to know? That is why we chose to include the names and contact information for the blanks as well as the responders. We think consumers have a right to know about both categories.

There is another reason for including the blanks. We want to leave the opportunity open for them to include their numbers in the future. This survey will have a life on www.funeralskc.org after it has been printed in this newsletter. We

Stalter keynotes Day of the Dead Annual meeting



Bill Stalter

Most people pick a cemetery based on its appearance, whether family members are buried there and its religious affiliation. Those are all good reasons, but not nearly good enough to avoid future pitfalls, says William Stalter, an Overland Park attorney and a national authority on death-care issues. Stalter, who will be the

keynote speaker Nov. 1 at the 50th anniversary meeting of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Greater Kansas City, has a list of questions for consumers to ask cemetery representatives including:

- Do you maintain a trust fund for continued grounds maintenance after the cemetery is full?
- If so, Who is the trustee? What is its market value? Does it meet state regulations? Is it audited? May I see a report?
- If I buy my space with installment payments, under what circumstances would I lose the money I paid if I fall behind?
- Can the cemetery sell my space to someone else if I fall behind?
- Can I return my space for a refund if I move to another state?
- If I purchase a space, then decide to be cremated and have my ashes placed in a niche instead, will I be credited for the price difference?



Silent auction item at annual meeting

Cemetery focus on Day of the Dead

continued from Page 1

Honest, consumer-friendly cemetery operators should have no problem answering such questions, said Stalter, who was quoted last year in a Consumers Digest investigative report on cemetery scams. For instance, he said in the report, "It should be a red flag if the operator can't explain what state requirements are."

Stalter will address those and other issues at FCA-GKC's November 1 meeting from 3 to 4:30 p.m. at the Belvoir Winery, 1325 Odd Fellows Road, Liberty. Another major topic at the meeting will be FCA-GKC's survey of Kansas City area cemeteries printed in this newsletter. November 1st in many traditions is recognized as the Day of the Dead. A silent auction will feature several Day of the Dead items. Certificates of attendance for one clock hour will be given to all social workers.

Directions to Belvoir Winery:

The winery is located in Liberty, MO's Odd Fellows Historic District next to Missouri 291 highway. From downtown Kansas City, take I-35 to the Liberty exit at Missouri 152. Turn east on 152 one mile to 291, then turn right (south) on 291 a few miles to Claywoods Drive. Turn left (east) on Claywoods Drive, then an immediate right on Odd Fellows Drive at the T into the winery.

Belvoir Winery is the long-held dream of Dr. John L. Bean and his wife, Marsha, to turn the Odd Fellows Historic District into a unique event location. The name Belvoir is French for Beautiful view. The winery's first vines were planted 15 years ago. The FCA-GKC meeting will be held in the southernmost and oldest building on the property. Yes, wine will be available and tours of the building will be conducted after the meeting.



He watches our pennies and spends our dollars

*By Jim Fitzpatrick
FCA-GKC treasurer*

The "high finance division" of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Greater Kansas City brings you good news:

In the wake of our spring/summer newsletter, we received 41 contributions for a total of \$1,428.50.

As treasurer of the organization, I was very pleased with that result, and, speaking for the seven-member board of directors, we sincerely thank you. In the last newsletter (available on our website – www.funeralskc.org), I laid out where we stood and our hopes for improving and solidifying our financial situation.

Your response provided a big push.

That said, however, we have no reserves and just \$1,252.63 in our checking account (Country Club Bank) at this writing. As I reported in the last newsletter, it costs \$1,000 to \$1,200 for printing and mailing of each newsletter, so the cost of the newsletter you are reading will again take us down to near zero balance.

As you can see, this edition of the newsletter is very special: We are including in it the results of a cemetery survey – the first such survey we have done since 1997. I hope you will conclude that, by doing this survey, we are always trying to expand our horizons and improve our services to you, the consumers. The survey took a lot of time and patient work, but today you see the results.

So, once again we ask you to please consider additional contributions to help us continue to provide what we trust you regard as a valuable service to the public. As you know, we have no paid staff, and none of us board members receives pay of any kind, except for reimbursement of organization-related expenses, such as purchases of supplies and stamps.

You can contribute either by credit card on our website (www.funeralskc.org) or by putting a check in the self-addressed envelope that is included in this newsletter.

You might notice that we have a new address, again. Earlier this year, after we stopped having our board meetings at Unitarian Universalist Church in Kansas City, which we also had used as our address for years, we changed the mailing address to my house. That is not the ideal situation, however, and now we have a post office box in the Brookside area, not far from my house. The address is P.O. Box 7021 Kansas City, MO 64113.

But back to finances...In recent months we have had several significant one-time expenses, including payment of almost \$500 to an accountant who helped us

with renewal of our 501(c)(3) status and \$100 for the IRS renewal fee.

We also paid \$193 to the national Funeral Consumers Alliance.

That amount represented 15 percent of the second-quarter contributions that we received. That is our agreement with the national organization, based in South Burlington, VT: We give them 15 percent of our contributions to help them advance the Funeral Consumers Alliance goals nationwide.

As I said in the last newsletter, we are starting, in this edition, to list the names and cities of residence of our contributors, unless they request that their names not be listed.

So, here is the list of most of our contributors in recent months:

Joel McGill, Wichita; James and Janice Grebe, Shawnee Mission; Donald Puett, Overland Park; Philip And Betty Calabrese, Overland Park; Sandra Myers, Kansas City; Tom Woodbury, Kansas City; William Reiting, Overland Park; Paul M. Galatas, Kansas City; Jess and Lois Rowland, Kansas City; Virginia Kenney, Lenexa; Jan Holdeman, Independence; Joyce Bradley, Kearney; Don Baken, Liberty; Don Robertson, Kansas City; Dixie and John Baum, Lenexa; Ruth K. Gieschen, Lee's Summit; Ivan Waite, Raymore; Mary and Henry Droll, Kansas City; GERAL and Dorothy Culp, Blue Springs; Kermit Karns, Imperial, NE.

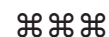
Forrest Bartlett, Independence; John H. Griffith, Gladstone; William and Esther Boothe, Independence; Doris Yonker, Kansas City; Judy Reynoso, Washington, MO; Lenore Carroll, Kansas City; Virginia L. Powers, Shawnee Mission; William Mauer, Independence; Cremation Center of Kansas City, Shawnee Mission; Sherman Cox, Blue Springs; Jack and Barbara Chafee, Oak Grove; Mark Pikell, Merriam (in memory of Robert Pikell); Peter Lott, Kansas City; The O'Laughlin Group, Kansas City; Jane Wilkes, Kansas City; Ray and Kay Howa, Mission; and Jan Cohen, Kansas City.

Thanks to all of you!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me – jim.fitzpatrick06@gmail.com or (816) 361-1303.



Jim Fitzpatrick



Research yields a surprising discovery

By Jim Fitzpatrick
FCA-GKC treasurer

We darn near missed our 50th anniversary.

In fact, until a few months ago, none of the eight members of the FCA-GKC board of directors knew how old the organization was. We knew it had been around at least a few decades, but we didn't know when our organization was founded.

Then, as I was taking the necessary steps to renew our non-profit status with the IRS, I began scouring the Secretary of State's electronic records on FCA-GKC.

And way back -- way down the list of various state filings over the years -- I found Articles of Incorporation, which we had lost track of. It was then that I began learning about the history of the Funeral Consumers Alliance of Greater Kansas City.

The articles were filed on Aug. 31, 1961, and the name of the organization was Greater Kansas City Memorial Society. Reflecting the urban nature of Kansas City at the time, seven of the eight members of the first board of directors were Kansas City, MO, residents. (Now, four of our eight board members live in suburban cities.)

The three incorporating members were Dr. Harold Buschman, Dr. John McLeod and Lowell L. Smithson. The other board members were Ray Watson, Donna Adcock, Frank Baxter, Raymond Bragg, Fred Havens and Thorpe Menn.

I'm sure many of your readers recognize some of those names. The only names that I recognize are Fred Havens, president of Havens Steel, and Thorpe Menn, who was book-review editor of *The Kansas City Star* for many years. (I was a reporter and editor at *The Star* for 37 years before retiring in 2006. When I started, in 1969, Thorpe Menn was still working at the paper.)

Article II of the Articles of Incorporation spelled out the organization's purposes. Those purposes included...

- To promote and foster by education, publication and all



other lawful means, dignity, simplicity and economy in funeral arrangements and in the disposition of the remains of deceased humans.

- To conduct, arrange, assist in conducting, or assist in arranging simple and dignified religious services upon the death of members or others.
- To make contracts, solicit contributions and borrow money to accomplish any or all of the purposes.

Over the decades, the organization's purposes have remained essentially the same. Our mission statement, which can be found on the home page of our website, www.funeralskc.org, is:

"To educate and support individuals and families in making informed decisions about death-related services, consistent with their values and lifestyles."

A section called "Our Values," also on our website, says that we believe:

- Individuals/families have the right to make informed choices concerning funeral/memorial options.
- High ethical standards in the funeral industry are a consumer right.
- Consumers can make appropriate decisions without severe financial consequences when they make choices free from vested interests.
- Price/cost of a funeral/memorial is not a measure of love or respect for the deceased.
- Individuals/families can make better plans when all parties are involved before necessity arises.

Perhaps the most prominent figure in the history of our organization was the Rev. Stuart Whitney. Whitney, a founder of the reStart homeless

shelter in the early 1980s, was FCA president for many years, until he died in 2006.

In the winter 2006 edition of our newsletter, several people wrote tributes about Whitney, a warm and soft-hearted man.

Brad Stratton of Overland Park wrote: "Stuart's legacy of compassion and understanding will live on through the many lives that he touched while on earth. Those of us that had the privilege of knowing him have been both touched and blessed by the experience of his friendship."

Succeeding Whitney as president was Bev McGill, who has been on the board for 16 years. McGill, who stepped down as president last year, recruited several current board members, including Steve Nicely, who succeeded her as president. Nicely also is a retired Kansas City Star reporter.

Besides McGill, Nicely and I, the other board members are Sally King, vice president; Linda Johnson, secretary; Sue Fine, Nancy Petersen and Pam Thomas.

We board members are proud to serve the Funeral Consumers Alliance in trying to help educate people about their rights in regard to funerals and other end-of-life decisions. We hope we and our successors can continue to offer people sound advice and guidance for another 50 years... at least.

☘ ☘ ☘

FCA-GKC Board of Directors

Steve Nicely, president

Sally King, MSW, vice president

Linda Johnson, MSW, secretary

Jim Fitzpatrick, treasurer

Sue Fine, MS

Bev McGill

Nancy C. Petersen, MSW

Pam Thomas, Ph.D

Funeral Consumers Alliance of Greater Kansas City

(Check www.funeralskc.org for recent changes)

Greater Kansas City Cemetery Survey

9/30/2011

Survey collected in Aug/Sep 2011		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	
Cemetery		Ownership	Cemeter'y Owner-ship Type	Price Range Standard Burial Plot	Price Range Ashes Burial	Price Range Mausoleum Burial	Price Range Columbar-ium Space	Price Range Double Lawn Crypt	Opening + Close Fee Standard	Opening + Close Fee Ashes	Opening + Close Fee Mausol'm	Opening + Close Fee Columbr'm	Vaults Req'd Casket	Vaults Req'd Urn	Bury Ashes in Occupied Grave?	Endowed Care/Maint Fund?	Cemetery Buyback Plots?	Allow Resale of Plots?	Average & Percent Unsold		
Douglas County, KS																					
1	Eudora Cemetery			No Response to the Survey																	1
2	Maple Grove	City of Lawrence	Muni	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 1,575-\$3,575	\$ 1,200	n/a	\$ 700	\$ 300	\$ 700	\$ 300	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	70 ac/ 20%	2	
3	Memorial Park	City of Lawrence	Muni	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 1,575-\$3,575	\$ 1,200	n/a	\$ 700	\$ 300	\$ 700	\$ 300	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	70 ac/ 20%	3	
4	Oak Hill	City of Lawrence	Muni	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 1,575-\$3,575	\$ 1,200	n/a	\$ 700	\$ 300	\$ 700	\$ 300	No	No	Yes	No	No	Yes	70 ac/ 20%	4	
Johnson County, KS																					
5	Antioch Pioneer Cemetery		Non-Profit	\$ 1,500	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	1 ac/ 2%	5	
6	Corinth Cemetery			Declined to Participate																	6
7	Edgerton Cemetery			No Response to the Survey																	7
8	Gardner Cemetery			Declined to Participate																	8
9	Jo County Memorial Gardens	Stewart Enterprise	For Profit	\$ 2,625 & up	\$ 2,625 & up	\$ 7,390	\$ 2,095-\$2,920	\$ 7,185	\$ 1,120	\$ 710	\$ 1,120	\$ 550	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	n/a	Yes	30 ac/ na	9	
10	Lenexa Cemetery	Lenexa Cemetery Asso	Non-Profit	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$ 800	\$ 250	n/a	n/a	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	10 ac/ 15%	10	
11	Mount Calvary	Catholic Cem - NEKS	Religious	\$ 1,200	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$ 950	\$ 550	n/a	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	10 ac/ 40%	11	
12	Oak Lawn Memorial Gardens	Stewart Enterprise	For Profit	\$ 1,095-\$1,745	\$ 1,095-\$1,745	n/a	\$ 950-\$1,750	\$ 6,285	\$ 1,120	\$ 710	\$ 1,120	\$ 550	na	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	na/ 40%	12	
13	Olathe Memorial Cemetery	City of Olathe	Muni	\$ 1,000	\$ 515	n/a	\$ 1,000	n/a	\$ 865	\$ 515	n/a	\$ 0	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	28 ac/ 25%	13	
14	Pleasant Valley	City of Shawnee	Muni	\$ 900	\$ 125	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$ 900	\$ 125	n/a	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	121 ac/ 50%	14	
15	Pleasant View Cemetery			No Response to the Survey																	15
16	Resurrection	Catholic Cem - NEKS	Religious	\$ 1,500-\$1,750	\$ 500-\$1,100	\$ 4,000-\$14,000	\$ 2,200-\$4,300	\$ 3,850	\$ 950	\$ 725	\$ 725	\$ 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	45 ac/ 50%	16	
17	Sh Mission Memorial Gardens	Stewart Enterprise	For Profit	\$ 1,195	\$ 1,195	n/a	\$ 1,450	\$ 6,285	\$ 1,120	\$ 710	\$ 1,120	\$ 550	na	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	na/ 40%	17	
18	Shawnee Cemetery			No Response to the Survey																	18
19	Spring Hill			No Response to the Survey																	19
20	St. John Cemetery	Catholic Cem - NEKS	Religious	\$ 1,350-\$1,500	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$ 950	\$ 550	n/a	\$ 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	10 ac/ 50%	20	
21	St. Joseph Cemetery	Catholic Cem - NEKS	Religious	\$ 1,475-\$1,650	n/a	n/a	\$ 2,100-\$2,500	n/a	\$ 950	\$ 550	n/a	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	20 ac/ 40%	21	
Leavenworth County, KS																					
22	Fort Leavenworth Nat'l Cem		Gov't	No cost to veterans and their dependents. See story.																	22
23	Leavenworth National Cem		Gov't	No cost to veterans and their dependents. See story.																	23
24	Maple Grove Cem	Lot Owners Asso	Non-Profit	No Response to the Survey																	24
25	Mount Muncie Cemetery	Lot Owners Asso	Non-Profit	\$ 750-\$1,050	> \$475	\$ 6,200-\$9,000	\$ 1,425	n/a	\$ 975	\$ 475	\$ 100	\$ 0	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	No	190 ac/ 75%	25	
26	Sunset Memory Gardens			Declined to Participate																	26
27	Tonganoxie-Hubbel Hill Cem		Non-Profit	No Response to the Survey																	27
Wyandotte County, KS																					
28	Bonner springs	City of Bonner Springs	Muni	\$ 520-\$1,100	\$ 0	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$ 450	\$ 150	n/a	n/a	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	5 ac/ 40%	28	
29	Chapel Hill Memorial Gar	SCI Inc.	For Profit	\$ 995-\$995	\$ 550-\$995	\$ 3,995-\$6,995	\$ 575-\$1,695	\$ 4,995	\$ 1,395	\$ 325	\$ 995	\$ 325	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	60 ac/ 36%	29	
30	Edwardsville			No Response to the Survey																	30
31	Gate of Heaven	Catholic Cem - NEKS	Religious	\$ 1,400-\$1,700	n/a	\$ 4,100-\$13,000	\$ 2,400	\$ 3,850	\$ 950	\$ 550	\$ 725	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	50 ac/ 75%	31	
32	Highland Park	Declined	For Profit	\$ 450	\$ 425	\$ 4,250-\$6,900	\$ 550-\$1,500	\$ 2,600	\$ 875	\$ 250-\$450	\$ 875	\$ 250-\$450	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	60 ac/ 35%	32	
33	Maple Hill Cemetery	M & D Matney	For Profit	\$ 1,550-\$1,850	\$ 525-\$675	\$ 4,000	\$ 1,450	n/a	\$ 1,025	\$ 525	\$ 0	\$ 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	na	Yes	80 ac/ 40%	33	
34	Mem Park-Sunset Cemetery	Memorial PK Cem Inc	For Profit	\$ 250-\$1,000	\$ 250-\$500	n/a	\$ 500	\$ 500-\$1,000	\$ 750	\$ 350	n/a	\$ 350	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	120 ac/ 60%	34	
35	Mount Calvary	Catholic Cem - NEKS	Religious	\$ 1,000-\$1,400	\$ 700-\$1,125	\$ 4,000-\$12,000	\$ 1,650	\$ 3,850	\$ 950	\$ 550	\$ 725	\$ 0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	40 ac/ 3%	35	
36	White Christian Church			Declined to Participate																	36
Cass County, MO																					
37	Belton Cemetery	Belton Cem. Asso.	Non-Profit	No Response to the Survey																	37
City County, MO																					
38	Barry Cemetery	Stewart Enterprise	For Profit	\$ 1,095	\$ 550	n/a	n/a	n/a	\$ 1,195	\$ 735	n/a	n/a	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	4 ac/ 25%	38	
39	Mount Moriah Terrace Park	SCI Inc.	For Profit	\$ 895-\$495	\$ 295-\$290	\$ 3,495-\$4,331	\$ 990-\$1,995	\$ 5,495-\$6,995	\$ 1,395	\$ 1,25-\$595	\$ 995	\$ 325	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	50 ac/ 80%	39	
40	Resurrection Cemetery	Catholic Cem Asso	Religious	No Response to the Survey																	40
41	White Chapel Cemetery	Stewart Enterprise	For Profit	\$ 1,395-\$3,195	\$ 550-\$3195	\$ 4,995-\$11,495	\$ 405-\$1,700	\$ 4,500	\$ 1,195	\$ 735	\$ 1,195	\$ 625	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	45 ac/ na	41	
Jackson County, MO																					
42	Blue Ridge Lawn			No Response to the Survey																	42
43	Blue Springs Cemetery			No Response to the Survey																	43
44	Brooking Cemetery	Brooking Cem Asso	Non-Profit	\$ 500-\$700	\$ 100	n/a	\$ 650	n/a	\$ 675	\$ 175	n/a	\$ 175	na	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No Response-Prices from Web Page	44	

FCA-GKC Cemetery Directory

10/6/11

Survey collected in Aug/Sep '2011		A	B	C	D	E	F	G
Cemetery		Address	City	State	Zip	Phone	e-mail	Web Page
<i>Douglas County, KS</i>								
1	Eudora Cemetery	PO Box 650	Eudora	Kansas	66025	785-542-4111	caudora@sunflower.com	n/a
2	Maple Grove	1605 Oak Hill Ave	Lawrence	Kansas	66044	785-832-3450	mlyoung@lawrenceks.org	www.lawrenceks.org
3	Memorial Park	1605 Oak Hill Ave	Lawrence	Kansas	66044	785-832-3450	mlyoung@lawrenceks.org	www.lawrenceks.org
4	Oak Hill	1605 Oak Hill Ave	Lawrence	Kansas	66044	785-832-3450	mlyoung@lawrenceks.org	www.lawrenceks.org
<i>Johnson County, KS</i>								
5	Antioch Pioneer Cemetery	75th & Antioch	Merriam	Kansas	66204	913-557-3298	n/a	www.speakschapel.com
6	Corinth Cemetery	<i>Declined to Participate</i>						
7	Edgerton Cemetery	PO Box 164	Edgerton	Kansas	66021	913-522-1499		
8	Gardner Cemetery	<i>Declined to Participate</i>						
9	Jo County Memorial Gardens	11200 Metcalf Ave	Overland Park	Kansas	66212	913-451-1860	mketcham@stei.com	www.johnsoncountychapel.com
10	Lenexa Cemetery	89th & Pflum	Lenexa	Kansas	66285	913-441-4364	n/a	n/a
11	Mount Calvary	158th & Hwy 169	Olathe	Kansas	66061	913-371-4040	information@cathcemks.org	www.cathcemks.org
12	Oak Lawn Memorial Gardens	13901 Blackbob Road	Olathe	Kansas	66062	913-441-3300	afitzsimmons@stei.com	www.johnsoncountychapel.com
13	Olathe Memorial Cemetery	738 N. Chestnut	Olathe	Kansas	66051	913-971-5226	bnilges@olatheks.org	www.olatheks.org
14	Pleasant Valley Cemetery	9500 W. 159th	Overland Park	Kansas	66221	913-897-3607	n/a	www.pleasantvalley.com
15	Pleasant View	6105 Quivira Road	Shawnee	Kansas	66203	913-631-5200		
16	Resurrection	83rd & Quivira	Lenexa	Kansas		913-371-4040	information@cathcemks.org	www.cathcemks.org
17	Sh Mission Memorial Gardens	23215 W. 75th Street	Shawnee	Kansas	66227	913-441-3300	afitzsimmons@stei.com	www.johnsoncountychapel.com
18	Shawnee Cemetery	11810 W. 61st Street	Shawnee	Kansas	66203	913-631-5200		
19	Spring Hill	701 W. South Street	Spring Hill	Kansas	66083	913-592-3419		
20	St. John Cemetery	89th & Pflum	Lenexa	Kansas	66215	913-371-4040	information@cathcemks.org	www.cathcemks.org
21	St. Joseph Cemetery	61st & Quivira	Shawnee	Kansas		913-371-4040	information@cathcemks.org	www.cathcemks.org
<i>Leavenworth County, KS</i>								
22	Fort Leavenworth Nat'l Cem	395 Biddle Blvd	Leavenworth	Kansas	66027	913-758-4105	william.owensby@va.gov	www.cem.va.gov
23	Leavenworth National Cem	150 Muncie Road	Leavenworth	Kansas	66048	913-758-4105	william.owensby@va.gov	www.cem.va.gov
24	Maple Grove Cem	Hwy 24	Tonganoxie	Kansas	66086	913-845-2666		
25	Mount Muncie Cemetery	1500 N. 8th Street	Lansing	Kansas	66043	913-727-1935	mtmunciecemetery@kc.rr.com	n/a
26	Sunset Memory Gardens	<i>Declined to Participate</i>						
27	Tonganoxie-Hubbel Hill Cem	PO Box 365	Tonganoxie	Kansas	66086	913-845-2228		
<i>Wyandotte County, KS</i>								
28	Bonner springs	205 E. Second Street	Bonner Springs	Kansas	66012	913-667-1716	ritah@bonnersprings.org	www.bonnersprings.org
29	Chapel Hill Memorial Garden	701 N. 94th Street	Kansas City	Kansas	66112	913-334-3366	joel.brinkley@dignitymemorial.com	www.chapelhillmemorialkansas.com
30	Edwardsville	105th Street	Edwardsville	Kansas		913-441-3707		
31	Gate of Heaven	126th & Parallel	Kansas City	Kansas	66109	913-371-4040	information@cathcemks.org	www.cathcemks.org
32	Highland Park	3801 State Ave	Kansas City	Kansas	66102	913-371-0667	highlandparkcemetery@yahoo.com	www.highlandparkfh.com
33	Maple Hill Cemetery	2301 S. 34th Street	Kansas City	Kansas	66106	913-262-6610	mike@maplehillfuneralhome.com	www.maplehillfuneralhome.com
34	Mem Park-Sunset Cemetery	3223 N 18th Street	Kansas City	Kansas	66104	913-321-5100	n/a	n/a
35	Mount Calvary	38th & State	Kansas City	Kansas	66102	913-371-4040	information@cathcemks.org	www.cathcemks.org
36	White Christian Church	<i>Declined to Participate</i>						
<i>Cass County, MO</i>								
37	Belton Cemetery	S.Scott & W.Cambridge	Belton	Missouri	64012	816-769-8535	elmerlarkey@me.com	www.beltoncemetery.com
<i>Clay County, MO</i>								
38	Barry Cemetery	1327 NW Barry Road	Kansas City	Missouri	64155	816-452-8430	awillett@stei.com	www.dwnewcomers.com
39	Mount Moriah Terrace Park Cem	801 NW 108th Street	Kansas City	Missouri	64155	816-734-5500		www.mountmoriahterraceparkcemetery.com
40	Resurrection Cemetery	5001 NE Cookingham	Kansas City	Missouri	64164	816-734-2356	jharris@cemetarieskcsj.org	www.cemetarieskcsj.org
41	White Chapel Cemetery	6400 N. Antioch Road	Gladstone	Missouri	64119	816-452-8419	awillett@stei.com	www.dwnewcomers.com
<i>Jackson County, MO</i>								
42	Blue Ridge Lawn	2640 Blue Ridge Blvd.	Kansas City	Missouri	64129	816-836-3554		
43	Blue Springs Cemetery	2800 SW Walnut Street	Blue Springs	Missouri	64105	816-220-3151	n/a	n/a
44	Brooking Cemetery Assoc	10004 E. 53rd	Raytown	Missouri	64133	816-353-4278	russell@brookingcemetery.com	www.brookingcemetery.com
45	Elmwood Cemetery	4900 E. Truman Road	Kansas City	Missouri	64127	816-231-0373	john.weilert@elmwoodcem-kc.org	www.elmwoodcem-kc.org
46	Floral Hills Cemetery	7000 Blue Ridge Blvd.	Kansas City	Missouri	64133	816-353-1218	kkingsinger@stei.c	www.floralhillsfuneralhome.com
47	Floral Hills East Mem Gardens	25201 E. US 50 Hwy	Lee's Summit	Missouri	64086	816-353-1218	kkingsinger@stei.c	www.floralhillsfuneralhome.com
48	Forest Hill & Calvary Cems	6901 Troost Ave.	Kansas City	Missouri	64131	816-523-2114	foreshill655@gmail	www.aftercareplanning.com
49	Highland Park	2000 Blue Ridge Blvd.	Independence	Missouri		816-836-3554		
50	Kahilath Israel	1901 S. Blue Ridge	Independence	Missouri	64052	816-461-3330		
51	Lee's Summit Historical Cem	806 SE 3rd Street	Lee's Summit	Missouri	64063	816-969-1590	bill.rust@cityofs.net	www.lsparks.net
52	Lincoln	8604 E. Truman	Kansas City	Missouri	64126			
53	Lobb Cemetery	2505 Lobb Cemetery Rd	Independence	Missouri		816-373-3600	chuck.townsend@speakschapel.com	www.speakschapel.com
54	Longview Memorial Gardens	12706 S. Raytown Road	Kansas City	Missouri	64149	816-761-6272	longviewfuneralhome.com	www.longviewfuneralhome.com
55	Memorial Prk and Green Lawn	<i>Declined to Participate</i>						
56	Mound Grove Cemetery	<i>Declined to Participate</i>						
57	Mount Carmel (55th)	9331 E. 55th	Kansas City	Missouri				
58	Mount Carmel (Ditzler)	5529 Ditzler Ave	Raytown	Missouri		816-353-4196	n/a	www.bethshalomkc.org
59	Mount Moriah Cemetery South	10507 Holmes Road	Kansas City	Missouri	64131	816-942-2004	n/a	www.dignitymemorial.com
60	Mount Olivet Cemetery	7601 Blue Ridge Blvd	Kansas City	Missouri	64138	816-353-1900	jharris@cemetarieskcsj.org	www.cemetarieskcsj.org
61	Mount St. Mary Cemetery	2201 Cleveland Ave	Kansas City	Missouri	64127	816-353-1900	jharris@cemetarieskcsj.org	www.cemetarieskcsj.org
62	Mount Washington	614 S. Brookside Ave	Kansas City	Missouri	64053	816-252-4141	jwoods@mtwcem.com	n/a
63	New Salem Cemetery	1823 N. Blue Mills Road	Independence	Missouri	64058	816-796-8600		www.newsalemfuneralhomeandcemetery.com
64	Oak Ridge Memory Gardens	PO Box 259	Independence	Missouri	64051	816-252-7000	brad.speaks@speakschapel.com	www.speakschapel.com
65	Sheffield Cemetery	6200 Wilson Road	Kansas City	Missouri	64123	913-341-2444	sheffieldcemetery@gmail.com	www.sheffieldcemetery.com
66	Six Mile Cemetery Assoc.		Independence	Missouri	64057	816-795-2821	6mile@sixmilecemetery.org	www.sixmilecemetery.org
67	Swan Lake Cemetery	30000 Valor Drive	Grain Valley	Missouri	64029	816-509-2510	onlythebest4them@aol.com	n/a
68	Twelve Gates Mem. Gdn	<i>Declined to Participate</i>						
<i>Platte Countr, MO</i>								
69	East Slopes Memorial Cemetery	5011 NW Gateway	Riverside	Missouri	64150	816-741-1881		

Generous burial options for veterans and families

By *Bev McGill and Linda Johnson*
FCA-GKC board members

The United States has a long tradition of honoring its military veterans and their families with final resting places in its 131 national cemeteries in 39 states.

At no cost to the family, burial of a veteran at national cemeteries includes the grave site, opening and closing of the grave, grave liner, perpetual care, a government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. National cemeteries will honor burial traditions of Muslim, Jewish, Native American, and various other religions with unique burial requests. Some or all of the cost of transporting the deceased to the national cemetery may be reimbursed.

Burial benefits available for spouses and dependents buried in a national cemetery include burial with the veteran, perpetual care, and the spouse or dependent's name and date of birth and death inscribed on the veteran's headstone, at no cost to the family. Eligible spouses and dependents may be buried even if they predecease the veteran. Information on who is eligible for burial in a Veteran's Cemetery is posted at www.cem.va.gov or call 800-827-1000. Veterans or their families must be prepared to document their service, and that their discharge was not "dishonorable"

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) National Cemetery Administration operates three national cemeteries in Kansas: one at Fort Leavenworth, one in Leavenworth near the VA Medical Center and one at Fort Scott (316-223-2840.) Brochures and information on veteran's burial are available by calling the Leavenworth sites at 913-758-4105.

In addition, there are four Kansas state veterans cemeteries located in Fort Dodge, Wakeeney, Winfield and Manhattan. A partnership of state and U.S. governments provide essentially the same services.

Missouri has national veterans cemeteries in St. Louis (314-845-8320) and Springfield (417-881-9499). Springfield has space for caskets only if family members are already buried there; otherwise they accept only cremains (ashes.). Five Missouri state veterans cemeteries are in St. James, Higginsville, Springfield, Bloomfield, and Jacksonville. A listing of state veteran's cemeteries can be found at www.cem.va.gov/lsvc.asp. All federal and state cemeteries are well maintained, and beautiful.

The VA does not make funeral



Bev McGill



Linda Johnson

arrangements or perform cremations. Families make these arrangements with a funeral or cremation provider. Any item or service obtained from a funeral home or cremation office will be at the family's expense.

Cremated remains are buried or inurned in national cemeteries in the same manner and with the same honors as casketed remains. There is generally a columbarium with niche markers for inurnment of cremains at veteran cemeteries. Cremains can also be buried in the ground and VA cemeteries provide gardens for the scattering of cremains

'Free' plots for vets

There are cemeteries in the Metropolitan Kansas City area that advertise free plots for veterans. In those cemeteries only the plot is free. The government will furnish a marker but the cemetery usually charges for



Leavenworth National Cemetery

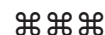
setting the marker. The opening and closing of the grave can run over a thousand dollars. The grave liner may cost several hundred dollars. Private cemeteries do not provide any burial services to the veteran's next of kin.

Burial benefits available for veterans buried in a private cemetery include a Government headstone or marker, a burial flag, and a Presidential Memorial Certificate. No benefits are available to spouses and dependents buried in a private cemetery. Veterans may also be eligible for the following burial allowances:

Service-Related Death. VA will pay up to \$2,000 toward burial expenses for deaths on or after September 11, 2001 (up to \$1500 for deaths prior to Sept. 10, 2001).

Nonservice-Related Death. VA will pay up to \$300 toward burial and funeral expenses and a \$300 plot-interment allowance for deaths on or after December 1, 2001 (\$150 for deaths prior to Dec. 1, 2001.) If the death happened while the veteran was in a VA hospital or under VA contracted nursing home care, some or all of the costs for transporting the veteran's remains may be reimbursed.

To apply for burial benefits, fill out VA Form 21-530, Application for Burial Benefits. You should attach a copy of the veteran's military discharge document (DD 214 or equivalent), death certificate, funeral and burial bills. They should show that you have paid them in full. You may download the form at <http://www.va.gov/vaforms/>



Consumer's guide to cemeteries

--- from the *Funeral Consumer Alliance's* brochure available at funerals.org.

Many people ask us about the costs to expect with a funeral, but they often forget that cemetery expenses are in addition to and separate from funeral expenses. Cemeteries aren't sufficiently regulated in many states. It's important to know exactly what you're buying. Some basics:

Right of interment --- what most people call "the grave." You don't actually buy a piece of property. You buy the right to be buried in a particular space.

Opening/Closing--- The charges to dig the grave and fill it back up. You will likely pay an additional fee for this.

Vault --- also known as an outer burial container or grave liner. They are boxes for your box. There are no laws in any state requiring them, but many cemeteries do. They prevent the ground from sinking as caskets deteriorate over time. No casket, vault or container will prevent the body from decomposing.

Mausoleums---above ground buildings where the casket is placed in a drawer-like space.

Columbariums --- miniature versions of mausoleums designed for urns containing cremated remains.

Perpetual Care --- Most states require cemeteries to deposit a percentage of every sale into a maintenance fund to ensure upkeep of the grounds over the years. Many cemeteries manage their funds carefully, but many have not. The Funeral Consumers Alliance is seeing a rise in the number of cemeteries going broke from either mismanagement, theft of the funds or low returns because of a poor investment market.

Before you buy, get a printed, itemized price list for all services and merchandise. Get a copy of the cemetery's rules and regulations ahead of time. Pay attention to the type and size of monuments that are allowed. Be aware of the cemetery's rules on grave decorations ahead of time. Don't do business with any cemetery that won't provide this information ahead of time.

Think long and hard before you buy a plot ahead of time. What if you move away? It can be quite difficult to sell a grave you no longer need, especially with the cremation rate rising. However, buying ahead may make sense if you have a family tradition, strong feelings about using a specific cemetery or if the cemetery is about to run out of space.

**Funeral Consumers Alliance
of Greater Kansas City**
P.O. Box 7021
Kansas City, MO 64113

Phone: 816/561-6322
Email: fca.gkc@gmail.com
www.funeralskc.org

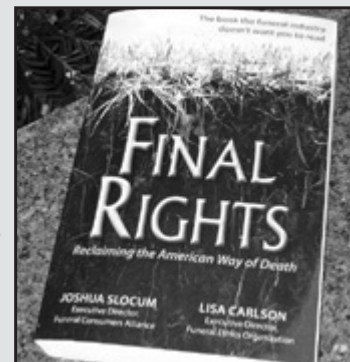
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One-of-a-kind book

FINAL RIGHTS Reclaiming the American Way of Death

Final Rights is the definitive book for consumers on the modern funeral industry and how to navigate it. Part investigative report and part practical guide, the book explains in detail the tricks of the funeral trade, and how to avoid being victimized. And for those who wish to take charge of the funeral themselves without using a funeral home Final Rights will show you how, with a chapter on each state's requirements written in plain English. The book by Joshua Slocum, national executive director of FCA, and Lisa Carlson, executive director of the Funeral Ethics organization, is available for \$19.95 at www.funerals.org.



Presentations are available

Are you part of an organization that would benefit from an unbiased presentation about important practical aspects of funeral planning? Contact FCA-GKC at 816-561-6322 or email us at fca.gkc@gmail.com. We will line you up with one of our board members for a visit.