

# Cemetery Walk To Remember Past Local Funeral Directors

This year, the Cemetery Walk will honor funeral directors, with special emphasis on Bowlin Funeral Home, which celebrated 100 years in business in 2015.

The event is titled, "A Century of Bowlin Funeral Home and Other Directors."

This event is always a crowd favorite and sure to be enjoyable to people of all ages.

The actors will introduce the visitors to the many morticians and funeral directors from the community buried at Sunset. The guides will discuss with their groups the customs and traditions of funerals in rural West Tennessee over the years. Historical photos and memorabilia will be on display.

Everyone is encouraged to enjoy an afternoon of oral, interpretive history.

Transportation will be available to those in need of assistance in traveling the course of the cemetery.

Sponsors and the first tour will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the last tour starts at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, contact chairpersons: Bobby Goode, 364-5391 or Tommy Moore, 364-2915.

When asked about the history of Bowlin Funeral Home, Inc. in Dresden, Jimmy Dilday, the current

owner and operator of the business, recalled the establishment's early beginnings.

Mr. Dilday states that brothers Jim (Dilday's grandfather) and Press Bowlin opened Bowlin Funeral Home in 1915 in the Jewell Community located east of Dresden. In 1918, the siblings relocated their business on the corner of Wilson and East Main Street.

Mr. Winston and Mr. Jones formed a partnership with the Bowlin Brothers in 1919 and the business was renamed Winston-Jones & Bowlin Brothers Funeral Home. Later, Jones moved to Martin and the Bowlin brothers remained in Dresden.

In 1926, Press Bowlin's son, Carman Bowlin, attended Gupton-Jones Mortuary School in Nashville, and the funeral home began embalming after this time.

In 1935, S.P. Bowlin, son of Jim Bowlin, attended the mortuary school and took over the business.

M.F. "Ferrin" Riggs became a partner in 1938, and it was renamed Bowlin & Riggs Funeral Home.

After S.P. Bowlin got married, his wife, Edith, served as funeral director.

The business operated under that name until 1958, when Riggs sold out and the name reverted to Bowlin Funeral Home.

In 1959, Jimmy Dilday became the funeral director and embalmer.

In 1968, the funeral parlor moved to its current location at 279 West Main Street.

In 1972, Dilday became a full partner. He then purchased the business in 1977, and decided to continue the longstanding tradition and kept Bowlin Funeral Home as the name of the business in honor of its 101 years of operation.

Also featured will be Anderson Funeral Home, owned and operated by Joe Anderson, which was located on Hwy 22 across from Kountry Korner in the 1960s and 1970s.

According to Co-chairman Judge Tommy Moore, re-enactors will portray many of the above-mentioned individuals associated with Bowlin Funeral Home, as well as Joe Anderson. Other funeral directors will be mentioned but will not be portrayed by re-enactors.

The current staff at Bowlin Funeral Home includes: Mr. Dilday as president; Scotty Brewer, pre-need funeral agent/funeral director/embalmer; and Ronnie Sellers, funeral director/embalmer.

Bowlin Funeral Home was selected by the Weakley County Chamber of Commerce as the 2015 Business of the Year.



Roger and Marylou Tibbs

## GOLDEN IRISES

Roger and Marylou Tibbs have been named this year's Golden Irises.

A romance that began as teenagers on the roller rink has rolled into over 50 years of commitment to one another.

They have one son, David, who resides in Tampa, Florida, along with his three children, David, Chris, and Lexie.

Roger grew up on a farm with his mom, dad, and seven siblings.

He attended Welch School, then graduated from South Fulton High School. His career as a floor covering

installer began while he was still in high school. His attention to detail, outstanding work ethic, and goal of excellence on every project have rewarded him with a reputation of fine craftsmanship.

Marylou is retired from a very satisfying career as a hair stylist. She now fills her time volunteering at We Care, in other civic services and with friends and family.

Roger and Marylou are devoted to their church, First Baptist Church of Dresden, where Roger serves as a Deacon.



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