

## Funeral Director Veterans Invited to Commemoration

The director and staff of the Massachusetts National Cemetery invite all funeral directors who are Vietnam-era veterans (active duty from 11/1/1955 to 5/15/1975) to the 50th anniversary commemoration ceremony on Wednesday, March 25 at 9 a.m.

The event will be held at the National Cemetery in Bourne. To RSVP or if you have any questions, please call 508-563-7113 x105.

## Boston 25 Reports on OCME Efforts

Boston 25 News recently reported on the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner's efforts to close cases in the 90 days required for accreditation.

## Southern Maine Veterans' Cemetery Expansion

An ongoing expansion project will affect burials at Southern Maine Veterans' Cemetery starting this spring. Request a copy of the letter from Supt. Scott R. Brown by emailing [info@massfda.org](mailto:info@massfda.org).

## Classifieds

**HELP WANTED:** Do you enjoy watching a beautiful sunset? Perhaps you'd enjoy it more if you could watch it from your deck or from the soft sand and warm ocean water just two minutes away from your residence. What is it like to be able walk out your

## Your Feedback is Appreciated by March 10th

The Federal Trade Commission is soliciting comments on the economic impact of the Funeral Rule and whether it is still needed, whether the rule benefits consumers, and what kind of burden the Rule places on members. The development of the internet and new methods of disposition, such as alkaline hydrolysis and human composting, are areas also being considered.

The FTC is in the initial stages of reviewing, and possibly updating, its 36-year-old Funeral Industry Practices Rule. This review is the first since 2008 and could yield a number of significant changes that address current concerns for funeral directors and consumers alike.

This is the first step of a possible two-step process. If the comments the FTC receives persuade it that the Funeral Rule may need to be amended, then it would take the second step and initiate a formal rulemaking by announcing what portions of the rule it is examining for possible revision. That would entail another series of comments and possible testimony during formal hearings. Comments and testimony would be considered by the FTC when deciding if and how to amend the Funeral Rule.

The Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association, the Northeast Funeral Service Partnership and National Funeral Directors Association, along with other industry advocates and critics are currently drafting comments concerning the Funeral Rule.

We're writing to remind you to share your constructive thoughts with us by emailing [president@massfda.org](mailto:president@massfda.org) by Tuesday, March 10th and prior to our Board of Directors meeting on March 12th. Once finalized, our official comments will be available for you to review. View the request for comments online here: [www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/14/2020-02803/funeral-industry-practices-rule](http://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/02/14/2020-02803/funeral-industry-practices-rule)

Information about the Rule review was published in the following issues of Inside Edition:

[Inside Edition - 02/07/2020](#)

[Inside Edition - 02/10/2020](#)

[Inside Edition - 02/14/2020](#)

## Corona Virus News: Updates for Funeral Service Professionals

Last week, we shared more information from the Centers for Disease Control on handling decedents who may have had corona virus.

While the guidance from the CDC focuses on collecting specimens and conducting autopsies for persons under investigation for corona virus, the CDC notes that "the guidance can be utilized by medical examiners, coroners, pathologists [and] other workers involved in postmortem care."

The CDC website has been updating information as it becomes available. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-postmortem-specimens.html>

back door and take a relaxing swim, be on a bike path that stretches from Woods Hole to North Falmouth, and kayak in placid West Falmouth Harbor? Answer: It is a slice of heaven. These are just a few of the benefits of living in Falmouth and working for Chapman, Cole & Gleason in Falmouth, MA. If you are a passionate and experienced funeral director looking for a great opportunity, send me an email telling me why you should be considered for a full-time funeral director position. Email [billchapman@ccgfuneralhome.com](mailto:billchapman@ccgfuneralhome.com)

**POSITION SOUGHT:**

Experienced Funeral Director/Embalmer is seeking a position in Massachusetts. Licensed for 22 years in Connecticut and recently licensed in Massachusetts, I am seeking a full-time position with a Massachusetts funeral establishment. An experienced team leader, I am committed to treating clients with dignity and compassion. Responsible and trustworthy, I am always looking for ways to improve. To further discuss my qualifications and motivation, please contact Michael R. Osnoe by phone at 860-966-5297 (cell) or email at [mikeosnoe@att.net](mailto:mikeosnoe@att.net).

**APPRENTICESHIP**

**SOUGHT:** Seeking 30-hour per week apprenticeship with a funeral home in Springfield and/or the surrounding area. Available weeknights after 5 p.m. as well as weekends and federal holidays. Please contact Carie Burns-Smith by phone at 860-712-5564 or email at [cbsgfx@yahoo.com](mailto:cbsgfx@yahoo.com).

**FINE Plans Alumni Reunion March 28**

FINE Mortuary College is holding an Alumni Reunion on Saturday, March 28th from 2-6 p.m. in Norwood. Please RSVP by Saturday, March 14th. Please note that this is an alumni only event.

Any funeral home staff coming in contact with a decedent with confirmed or suspected coronavirus will want to pay particular attention to the section titled "Autopsy Procedures," which would most closely apply to embalming. This section includes guidance on safe work practices, engineering controls and the use of personal protective equipment.

Thank you to NFDA for their ongoing updates about this important issue.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker on Wednesday announced the Commonwealth has also set up a website to provide up-to-the-minute updates on corona virus. [You can access that site here.](#)

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to give us a call.

**Human Composting Bill Introduced in New York**

New York Assemblywoman Amy Paulin is sponsoring legislation that would allow human remains to be turned into compost as an alternative to burial or cremation. The process is called recomposition and efforts are underway to make it legal in Colorado and California, according to [Funeral Director Daily](#).

Currently, Washington is the only state allows for such disposition and the first human composting facility is scheduled to open in May in Seattle, according to a report in the Tribune-Democrat of Johnstown.

Massachusetts Funeral



Directors Association

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Clarence R. Lyons, President  
Margaret Nolan, Executive Director

Mission: The Massachusetts Funeral Directors Association is the funeral directors' professional community and is the recognized voice and source for information on issues affecting the funeral service profession. Together we leverage our experience, expertise and influence to anticipate and address issues, to build skills, to develop practical solutions to business problems and to set the standard for quality service and ethical practice when serving bereaved families. MFDA represents more than 500 funeral homes in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and is the largest representative organization of funeral service professionals in New England. During the period of one year, our members provide services for more than 40,000 families and during that same period, more than 2,000,000 people visit our member funeral establishments.

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