

SCI's infrastructure in New Orleans

Last month, President and CEO Tom Kitchen sent the following merger-related message to all Company employees.

Yesterday, all corporate employees located in New Orleans and throughout the Company learned about their individual job impacts resulting from the SCI merger. Each employee was informed personally by a Stewart manager. Some employees were asked to continue in their current position or offered a new position in SCI's future New Orleans office. Some employees were notified that their position ends when the sale takes place or after a transition period. Still others received offers to relocate to Houston or to interview for open positions.

SCI anticipates that after the sale and full integration process ends, there will be approximately 120 employees continuing in the office building located in Jefferson. These employees will be primarily in accounting and information

technology positions. Angela Lacour will be the senior managing director of SCI's New Orleans office, reporting to SCI's controller. In addition, several Stewart employees have been offered positions in Houston at SCI's headquarters.

The SCI management team has been diligent in its efforts to maintain a presence in New Orleans. From the start, they have complimented our high-quality workforce. I'm saddened that some of our people will lose their jobs, but confident that they will find excellent opportunities at other companies because of the career development afforded them at Stewart. SCI is providing generous severance benefits, including pay, outplacement services and continuation of health benefits.

The Federal Trade Commission review is continuing and we expect to get further information about divestitures soon. We will inform the employees at the affected locations in a timely manner so they hear reliable information the right way.

The acquisition is expected to take

"I'm saddened that some of our people will lose their jobs, but confident that they will find excellent opportunities ..."

place in late 2013 or early 2014. In the meantime, please continue to provide your usual professional and high-quality service to our families and your internal customers.

Cheatham Hill Memorial Park, Marietta, Ga., recently opened its new Whispering Waters Cremation Garden.

Read more about it in Stewart Snippets on page 12.



"Can Do" attitude conquers all

I've changed jobs a few times over my career and, during each transition, I'm glad to say that, despite the anxiety and uncertainty of working for a new company, I learned new things and met great people. December 2 marked my ninth anniversary with Stewart and I will never forget my first day. When my Executive Administrative Assistant Shirley Nelson greeted me with a smile and many others offered warm welcomes, I immediately knew that this was a Company I wanted to work for and people I wanted to work with.

Looking back on each of my job moves, I realize I am better because of those changes. The key to having a positive experience was that I was open-minded and stayed optimistic that things would work out well. It is not easy to do but, if you have that same attitude, you will continue to grow professionally and personally, and learn from life's challenges.

People who are optimistic generally see or believe that things will work out. Because they have that outlook, they work hard to make sure good things happen. When things turn out for the best once, they realize it will — one way or another — work that way the next time.

No matter the situation, keep looking forward. As the merger with Service Corporation International approaches, what the future holds for you may still be uncertain. However, whether it's a different path with another company or enhanced opportunities with SCI, there's always something to be optimistic about.

Optimists are more likely to be successful in their personal and professional lives because of their "Can Do" attitude and spirit. A large part of being optimis-

tic means you think of ways to accomplish a task instead of reasons why a job can't be completed. Do optimistic folks ever suffer disappointments? Sure they do, but they don't stay down for long. They face adversity and overcome it. We have always heard that the true measure of a person is how he or she deals with adversity. You have to be persistent and persevere if you are going to accomplish your goals.

While creating a plan of action is part of setting yourself up for success, maintaining a positive mindset is just as important. And, remaining optimistic does have its benefits. Here are just a few tips that may help you maintain a positive outlook when navigating through stressful times.

Humor

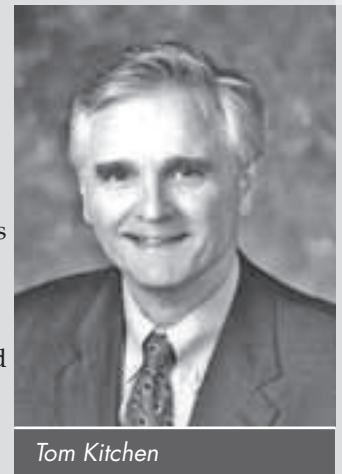
The saying "laughter is the best medicine" carries a lot of weight, especially in stressful situations. Because laughter is actually healthy for you, find something to laugh about every day, even when you're faced with challenges. Levity will help you relax, relieve stress and put you in a better mood. And, laughing with others is even more therapeutic. So, share your laughs with other people so they can benefit, too.

Look forward, not back

When dealing with a life-changing situation, it's best to look forward with an open mind. Looking back may make you feel worse. Pull on your experiences from the past and figure out how to apply what you've learned and experienced to the next chapter in your life.

Maybe you've been contemplating a career change, looking into going back

to school or making a geographic move. Focus on the positive to keep pushing forward and see change as an opportunity rather than a setback.



Tom Kitchen

Don't sell yourself short

Life is an interesting story that needs to be told, and YOU are the storyteller. No one can do a better job of selling you, no one. So, take a moment to assess yourself and craft a story that describes you and your abilities in a way that emphasizes your accomplishments and capabilities. Your story will be much more impressive than you think.

Channel your energy

Take the initiative to chart your next move. Realize that you can't change the past. You've gained a wealth of knowledge and skills from past experiences that have set you up for continued success in the future. Use that skill set to continue doing an exceptional job today.

That can be difficult to do under normal circumstances; however, we need to finish the job we started — caring for families. If you continue to do that and maintain a positive outlook, you'll feel better about the overall situation. Despite the uncertainty, remember — and believe — that everything will be OK.



SEInside is for internal use by Stewart Enterprises employees only.

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Many thanks to the BEST

Back in 2009, the Company formed a Best in Class Committee to help Operations employees discover and share best practices. The purpose of the group, made up of Operations representatives from all regions, was to gather information, discuss challenges and find the optimum solution for common problems. Having a group of people with different backgrounds, experiences and property sizes promoted the exchange of diverse ideas and solutions.

Inspired by the Operations Committee's success, Sales formed a BIC Committee

of its own in 2010. Sales representatives from each region exchanged best sales tactics, collaborated and ultimately standardized best sales practices Company wide.

In 2012 when the Company reorganized to bring Operations and Sales together, the BIC committee restructured, too. The new committee was made up of employees from Operations, Sales and Administration. The structured, open communication between regions and departments fostered the spread of good ideas, which lead to positive changes across the Company.

Last month, Executive Vice President

Jerry Myers recognized the BIC Committee members and thanked them for the valuable contributions they have made to the Company.

"I'd like to sincerely thank everyone who has served on a Best in Class Committee since its inception," Myers said. "The members dedicated themselves to finding effective and creative solutions to challenges we all face every day. Thank you for your commitment and willingness to share ideas so that we all can better serve our families." The committee officially adjourned this month.

2013 Best In Class Committee members:

- Shawn Brower, Southwestern Region
- Kelly Coleman, Committee Chairperson
- Megan Crouch, Western Region
- Daniel Ensor, Central Region
- Angela Erickson, Midwestern Region
- Steve Gillespie, Northern Region
- Andy Linthicum, Mid-Atlantic Region
- Don MacIntosh, South Florida/Puerto Rico Region
- Kim Thibodaux, Southern Region
- Jaime Velazquez, Los Angeles/Pacific Northwest Region
- Andrea Westmoreland, Human Resources
- Mike White, Southeastern Region



To thank her for serving as the Best in Class Committee Chairperson from 2011-2013, Western Division Senior Vice President Mike Miller presented Director of Operations for Nebraska and Wisconsin Kelly Coleman with a commemorative award. Photo by Donna Zinda, Wisconsin Memorial Park

Communication is key!

We know many of you may have questions related to the merger of our Company with Service Corporation International. If you have a question related to the merger that your manager or Human Resources representative is unable to answer, email your question(s) to questions@stei.com.

We will then periodically email answers to the most frequently asked questions to all employees in an FAQ document.

Information also is being posted as it becomes available on *SEnet* under the "Employees" tab.

Additionally, if you experience anxiety and uncertainty about this situation, remember that our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is available to all employees at no cost. Our

EAP, the Cigna Life Assistance Program, helps you address life's daily challenges, including issues like parenting, education, aging, financial and legal questions, and emotional health. The program provides 24-hour confidential access to professional advice including some face-to-face visits when needed.

To access EAP benefits, call (888) 371-1125 or visit www.cignabehavioral.com.



Cultural awareness


Creating a service or burial that adheres to the ideals and values of various nationalities can be difficult at times, especially if a funeral director isn't familiar with the family's customs. While services

are tailored to each individual and can differ from generation to generation, most religious groups have certain rituals that do not change significantly with each generation.

That's why the Company's Standard Op-



erating Procedures, or Funeral SOP, which can be found on *SEnet* under the "Resources" header, outlines some typical customs.

The information serves as only a general resource, however. Always check

Question	Buddhism	Chinese	Greek Orthodox
Is anything placed in the casket with the decedent?	The decedent is usually dressed in ceremonial garments. The casket is surrounded with wreaths, candles and sticks of incense that burn during the viewing and funeral service.	Frequently there are various items placed into the casket: extra clothing, money, stock certificates, personal items, etc.	An icon, sometimes a family heirloom, is normally placed on the front left corner of the casket. Visitors kiss the icon during the viewing and the final goodbye at the church service.
Are there any special dressing requirements?	Often they will choose traditional cultural clothing consisting of multiple layers. The outermost garment typically is a very ornate silk robe that should not be cut	There are often multiple layers of clothing. The family will number them in the proper order.	N/A
How soon after a death occurs will (or must) the visitation and/or funeral service take place?	Services generally take place as soon as possible, but they can be delayed because of the distances that family members must travel to attend.	Cultural holidays, such as Chinese New Year, play a role in scheduling services. Also, monks will read celestial indicators for good days for viewing and services.	The family will choose.
Any special equipment needed for the visitation and/or funeral service?	Several tables usually are required for food and drink offerings, incense offerings and photographs.	Multiple tables for incense and food offerings are required, as are numerous flower easels. Expect many large flower arrangements.	Candles are placed at the head and foot of the casket and an orthodox cross is placed behind the casket on a stand. A second church truck is often needed since the casket generally is turned and moved up onto the altar feet first.
How long does the visitation and funeral service typically last?	An hour or two	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buddhist service: Will last all day for one or several days. The service can be several hours long. • Christian service: Usually a shorter private time (30-60 minutes) with a 30-45-minute service 	The visitation is customarily held with an afternoon viewing session as well as an evening viewing section. The funeral service at church usually lasts one hour.
Are there any special facility needs if the visitation and/or funeral service is held in our location?	Space must be provided for a table or two for the use of incense that will burn throughout the viewing and service and also for gifts of food.	Only the tables and flower stands. Space needs to be considered because of all the things they will want to set up.	For the viewing at the funeral home, a Trisagion service is held during the evening viewing. Incense is part of this service and it is helpful to have a stand for the incense burner.
If there is a graveside or committal service, are there any special offerings made at that time by the family or organization?	Once inside the cemetery a monk leads the procession chanting religious hymns and another person throws paper (symbolizing money) in the air until they get to the grave. A steel container placed at the gravesite will be filled with more paper money and personal items. Those items are burned at a point during the service until they turn to ashes.	There is always a committal. The casket is lowered into the grave, and flowers are distributed to everyone attending the graveside. Attendees toss flowers into the grave, family members toss flowers, hair ribbons, veils and armbands into the grave and all depart immediately. There is no lingering at the grave.	Yes. It is customary that at the end of the service that everyone passes by the casket and places a flower on the casket. The family will lead this process.
Special notes	Grains of rice or a gold coin is often placed in the mouth of the decedent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grains of rice or a gold coin is often placed in the mouth of the decedent. • The eldest child often will start the cremator. • All attendees are given an envelope containing a quarter (to "pay" them for their time to attend), a piece of hard candy (to remove the bitter taste of death from their mouth) and a thank you note from the family. • The funeral procession often will travel past the decedent's place of business and/or family home. In both cases, the procession is stopped and the back door of the funeral coach is opened for a few moments, releasing the decedent's spirit. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An additional staff member is helpful especially when a Trisagion service is planned. • The casket is led into church by the priest and placed perpendicular to the altar. At the end, the casket will be turned to face the congregation. The directors attend to the casket so the family and friends can pass by and kiss the icon.

with the clergy or organization regarding any specific issues or restrictions related to the delivery of services, including removal, preparation, visitation and/or funeral service, etc. Be sure to complete

a Clergy Preference Form as necessary if one was not completed already. Below are some of the more unique features associated with several cultures the Company serves.

Jewish	Korean	Muslim
Earth from Israel and three pieces of clay are needed.	It depends on the family. Sometimes an extra set of clothing or a bible is placed in the casket.	The family will provide linens for the decedent to be wrapped in.
Jewish burial shrouds are provided by the funeral home. They are gender-specific.	Many times traditional Korean clothing is used.	Yes. The shroud is tied at the head and feet with a piece of cloth (from the same shroud) in such a way that one can differentiate the head from the feet.
Usually 24 to 36 hours	There is no specific time frame; however, some groups do not wish the service to take place after three days following death.	The sooner the better, and typically within one to three days. It can be the same day of death if everything can be accomplished to allow for it.
Kriah ribbons, Kriah knives, Shiva candles, a Jewish register book and Kaddish cards will be needed.	There needs to be an easel for a photograph of the decedent that we drape in black ribbon.	No
No visitation is held. The service is approximately one hour.	The viewing and funeral service will last for one to two hours each.	Visitation hours are reasonably short, but the services can last one to two hours.
N/A	White gloves are needed for the pallbearers for the burial service.	No, some sects will require the casket be placed on the floor so that people can walk all the way around it.
N/A 	Flowers are passed to each family member and mourner to place on the casket at the conclusion of the service.	N/A 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Jewish family is often unfamiliar with what to do and is totally dependent upon the instructions from the Rabbi. Make sure to refer to or generate a Clergy Preference Form for each Rabbi as they will have very different ideas of how things should be and expect you to do it their way when they are involved. 	If burial is the final disposition, the casket is lowered part way and the family will then place a spade of earth on the casket. Some families will request to go to the crematory with us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Very often the casket is placed in front of the congregation. Those praying divide themselves into rows facing Mecca, with the prayer leader in front. The entire funeral prayer is done while standing. An inexpensive cloth covered casket or an orthodox casket (without the Star of David) often is used. If burial is the final disposition, mourners walk in front or beside the casket and each person present shares in filling the grave by pouring three handfuls of soil into the grave.

Did you know?

Woodlawn Park Cemetery North & Crematory became famous when it opened in 1913 by spending thousands of dollars to import rare tropical trees and shrubs to the property. Among those plants was the schefflera, or Queensland umbrella tree. It was widely reported throughout the Miami area that Frank Walsingham, the cemetery's then-horticulturist, imported the seeds from Brisbane, Australia, thus introducing the species to the United States.



Families, friends and guests visit our cemeteries every day. At many of our facilities, these visitors are treated to more than the cherished memories of their loved ones. Exceptional art awaits as well.

Beautiful statues welcome visitors to El Camino Memorial - Cypress View Mausoleum in San Diego, Calif. Marketing Department file photo



Calming, inspirational paintings adorn the walls of John M. Taylor Funeral Home in Annapolis, Md. Marketing Department file photo



Earlier this year, six colorful mosaics like these were installed in All Saints Mausoleum at Metairie Cemetery, New Orleans, La. Marketing Department file photo



Wisconsin Memorial Park in Brookfield, Wis., proudly houses an art collection valued at more than \$5 million. The artwork includes paintings, antique furniture, stained-glass windows plus historic and religious sculptures. Marketing Department file photos

TOP 10

Congratulations to the “Grand Champion” fiscal year 2013 Top 10 at-need cremation revenue producers!



Eastern Division

Anne Hutzenbiler, <i>Mid-Atlantic Region</i>	\$5,849
Neva Fingado, <i>Mid-Atlantic Region</i>	\$4,939
Ascia Durant, <i>Mid-Atlantic Region</i>	\$4,868
Gerianne Kenny, <i>Mid-Atlantic Region</i>	\$4,788
Michele Nicole Vetula, <i>Mid-Atlantic Region</i>	\$4,777
Sonja Cheatham, <i>Mid-Atlantic Region</i>	\$4,562
April Felkins, <i>Mid-Atlantic Region</i>	\$4,528
David McGee, <i>Central Region</i>	\$4,373
Todd Yates, <i>Northern Region</i>	\$4,368
Melissa Alexander, <i>Mid-Atlantic Region</i>	\$4,357

Western Division

Michelle Moreno, Los Angeles/Pacific Northwest Region	\$7,395
Elena Vasquez, Los Angeles/Pacific Northwest Region	\$7,150
Edmund Gonzales, Los Angeles/Pacific Northwest Region	\$6,845
Jenee Laurent-Jones, Los Angeles/Pacific Northwest Region	\$5,860
Robert Sandeman, Midwestern Region	\$5,815
Ronnetta McDowell, Southwestern Region	\$5,787
Rodney Dufour, Southern Region	\$5,739
Edward Hood, Southwestern Region	\$5,690
Phillip Maher, Midwestern Region	\$5,673
Shelly Murray, Midwestern Region	\$5,668

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Congratulations to Maintenance Grounds Keeper Thomas Clark on winning the December Photo of the Month contest with his photo of an early, foggy morning at Monte Vista Burial Park in Johnson City, Tenn.!

10 QUESTIONS WITH ...

Joanne Ryder

Corporate Headquarters director of administrative services

Next time you reach for a highlighter, grab a paper clip or make a copy of a contract, make sure to thank Joanne Ryder.

Ryder joined the Company in May 1997 after her husband, Tom, was relocated to New Orleans. She started as a temporary employee, taking over as administrative assistant for Chief Information Officer Kent Alphonso while Lisa Bennett was on maternity leave. The Company was developing the Shared Services Center, now the Corporate Headquarters building, and Ryder ended up staying on full time.

In addition to her responsibilities as building manager, Ryder and her team coordinate all Office Depot and UPS orders placed throughout the Company. She also has all preneed and at-need contracts printed, and manages the Travel Center.

"I get here very early and make sure everything is running OK," she said. "I get tons of calls from the field and support them on any questions.

I also make sure the switchboard is running right, the mailroom is open and I pay all the bills for the building. I enjoy the variety of things I do."

The Detroit-area native has been married for 47 years, has three children – Christine, Marc and Lisa – and seven grandchildren.

What five things are necessary to do your job well?

1. Sophia Adams
2. Scott Mikelonis
3. Shelley Clark
4. Tracy Jefferson
5. Joe Gilberti
- 5.5 Debbie Peinado. And my security staff. If I go away for a day, the building continues to run well because they get it done day in and day out.

How do you best overcome challenges?

I stop, slow down and try to figure out what I need to do to move on. Then I act on the situation. When I had open-heart surgery with a valve replacement earlier this year, I didn't let it become an obstacle. My kids wanted me to retire, but I knew I would come back because I love my job.

What advice would you give a new employee about succeeding at their job?

You have to love your job. If you don't love it, say goodbye and leave. You're here more than you are home, and your colleagues become another family. You can't do a good job if you don't like it.

Do you have a motto you live by?

It's more of a saying I offer as encouragement, but when people say they can't do something, I tell them, "It's all in your mind, honey."

What's on your bucket list?

I want to go to New York City for the Thanksgiving Day parade with my grandchildren. I still watch it every year!

Describe a day in your work life using only one word.

Exhilarating.

If you could spend a day in another position with the Company, which position would it be?

I'd like to be the CEO, though certainly not forever. His days can be tough, and I don't know if my heart could stand it. I think it would be great if a woman had that position one day.

Is there something people may be surprised to learn about you?

I love to knit, especially big Afghans for my children. I'm starting on a set for my grandchildren.

Where do you see yourself in five years?

Retired and living near my grandchildren in the snow.

What's on your Christmas list? And do you have a New Year's resolution yet?

My kids keep asking that, and I love to give instead of receive. So, nothing right now. As for a resolution, since I had open-heart surgery, I no longer smoke. That's my greatest accomplishment, and I'll never have that on my list again.

Employee discounts available at SCI

Like Stewart Enterprises, Service Corporation International offers employees many discounts on products and services from death care to shopping.

DEATH CARE SERVICES

SCI's current policy provides discounts on at-need and preneed services, merchandise and property to employees who have been with the company for 90 days. The program is divided into three groups, and the discounts are listed below.

	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Funeral merchandise	Company's cost	50% off retail price	25% off retail price
Funeral services	No cost	50% off retail price	25% off retail price
Cemetery merchandise	Company's cost	50% off retail price	25% off retail price
Cemetery services	No cost	50% off retail price	25% off retail price
Cemetery property	50% off retail price as long as the final price is not less than company's cost. No finance charges if contract is for 48 months or less and payments are made through automatic bank withdrawal.		25% off retail price as long as the final price is not less than company's cost. No finance charges if contract is for 48 months or less and payments are made through automatic bank withdrawal.

GROUP 1

- Employee, spouse, children and step-children and their spouses
- Employee's parents and stepparents, and spouse's parents and stepparents
- Former employees with 10 years or more of service and their spouses

GROUP 2*

- Employee's siblings and their spouses, spouse's siblings and their spouses
- Employee's grandparents and employee's spouse's grandparents
- Employee's grandchildren and employee's spouse's grandchildren

GROUP 3

- Employee's nieces and nephews and their spouses
- Employee's aunts and uncles and employee's spouse's aunts and uncles.

* Part-time employees who have been with SCI for at least one year are eligible for the same benefits as offered to Group 2.

WIRELESS SERVICES

Employees with personal wireless devices are eligible to receive SCI's corporate discount from the following vendors: Verizon Wireless, Sprint/Nextel, AT&T and Telus Mobility (Canada). Discount percentages vary by provider.

COMPUTERS AND SOFTWARE

McAfee Home Use Program

SCI employees are eligible for a free one-year subscription to specified McAfee Consumer software. The subscription provides proactive security for your home computer by preventing malicious attacks. McAfee's security service continuously delivers the latest software so the protection is always up to date.

Microsoft Home Use Program

Microsoft offers all employees the Home Use Program, which includes a licensed copy of Microsoft Office desktop application to install and use on a home computer. Employees may order a single copy of the program at a discount and can use the program while employed by SCI.

HP Computer Employee Purchase Program

The Hewlett-Packard Employee Purchase Program offers HP and Compaq consumer products at up to 10 percent off. Employees can also use national mail-in and instant rebates, coupons and exclusive employee purchase program deals on top of the discount.

(See *Employee discounts*, page 11)

Lake Lawn Metairie Funeral Home and Cemeteries

Where located: New Orleans

Year founded/year acquired by Stewart: May 25, 1872/1969

Leadership: Jake Williams, executive director; Tiffany Simmons, general manager; Jeanne Keene, director of community and family service

Employees: 127

Website: www.LakeLawnMetairie.com

2012 interments/services: 1,383 interments; 1,386 funeral home calls

Fun fact: Stewart Enterprises, Inc., purchased Metairie Cemetery in 1969. However, the connection between the cemetery and the Stewart family dates back to 1932, when Albert Stewart and his sons, Charles and Frank B. Stewart, Sr., who started Acme Marble & Granite Co. in 1910, built the company's first tomb in the park for Joseph P. Henican.



Employee discounts *(From page 10)*

PC Connection Sales of Massachusetts, Inc.

All employees are eligible for free shipping and discounts on all purchases from PC Connection Sales of Massachusetts.

VEHICLES

SCI employees are eligible to participate in the following vehicle discount programs:

- GM Supplier Discount
- Ford Fleet Customer Recognition

ENTERTAINMENT

SCI employees are eligible for discounts at a variety of theme parks and water parks, including Schlitterbahn Water Park, Six Flags Fiesta Texas, SeaWorld and the Houston Zoo.

OTHER

Abenity Corporate Discount Program

The Abenity discount program allows employees to access thousands of local and national perks and discounts on everything from automobiles and maintenance to restaurants, movies and travel programs.

Apparel Group Ltd.

The Apparel Group Ltd.'s discount program offers 55 percent

off men's and women's dress shirts offered by the Enro/Damon and Foxcroft Shirt companies. Enro provides high-quality clothing for retailers such as Men's Warehouse, Nordstrom's, Brooks Brothers and JoS. A. Banks.

John Deere

Employees are eligible for two discounted purchases a year on select equipment lines from riding mowers to Gator™ Utility Vehicles.

Michael C. Fina

Michael C. Fina offers a 15-percent friends and family discount on all purchases, including china, crystal, silverware, vases, bowls, candlesticks, fine jewelry, watches and more.

Panasonic Purchase Program

Discounts on Panasonic products are available to employees through the Panasonic Purchase Program.

Staples Advantage Employee Purchase Program

Employees receive SCI's corporate discount rates on personal purchases by registering and ordering through order.StaplesAdvantage.com. Orders are delivered to your home address.

News and business development ideas from throughout the Company

SOUTHWESTERN

Funeral directors at **Restland Funeral Home and Cemetery** in Dallas proudly gave tours of the facility to a group of tour guides visiting from Belgium. All exchanged valuable knowledge regarding funeral and cemetery processes in the United States versus Europe. The Belgians were intrigued with Restland’s embalming and hair/makeup preparation procedures and were fascinated with the cemetery’s cremation benches and pedestals.

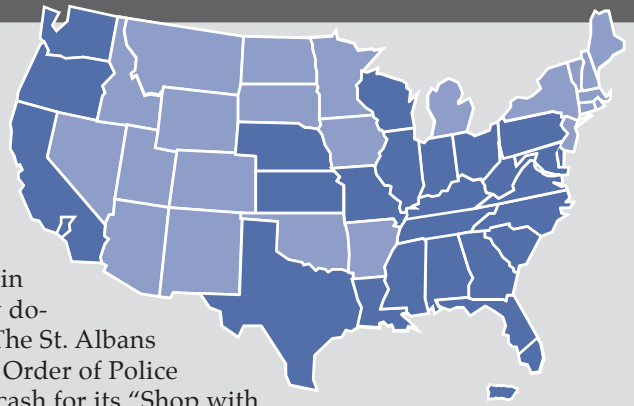


Supervisor Assistant Christopher Ferguson (far left) leads Belgian visitors on a tour of Restland’s George Young Center for Care. Photo by Amie Douglas, Restland Funeral Home

NORTHERN

Cunningham Memorial Park in St Albans, W.Va., plans to host more than 1,000 vehicles through its gates this month, to view the more than 17,000 luminaries aglow in the park.

Community volunteers, including students in the St. Albans High School Junior ROTC program, are a major part of the event, working with park maintenance crews to accomplish the massive project. Last year, visitors brought a combined two truckloads of food for local homeless shelters



and \$915 in monetary donations. The St. Albans Fraternal Order of Police used the cash for its “Shop with a Cop” program, which allows disadvantaged children to go Christmas shopping with a police officer. This is a powerful event than involves all staff members for several days.

CENTRAL

Cheatham Hill Memorial Park in Marietta, Ga., just completed its Whispering Waters Cremation Garden. The facility held a meeting last month to introduce the garden to all employees in the area.

In addition to the usual lovely features of a Whispering Waters Cremation Garden, such as elegant landscapes, a peaceful botanical setting, stunning granite designs and an outdoor events pavilion, this garden has more than 1,300 inurnment spaces and a unique granite globe water feature as one of the garden’s main focal points.



This unique granite globe water feature is one of the many lovely attractions in Cheatham Hill Memorial Park’s new Whispering Waters Cremation Garden. Marketing Department File Photo

Looking ahead

The percentage of Americans **65** and older will skyrocket in the near future, according to recent research by USA Today, the National Council on Aging and United-Healthcare. The projection showed the number of people in this age group will more than double between **2012** and **2060** – from **43.1** million to **92** million. The number of

people aged **85** and older, meanwhile, is expected to triple from **5.9** million to **18.2** million during the same time period.

For more insight into the aging population and other stories about trends in the death care industry, check out Simplicity Plan® online at news.simplicity.com.