



Friends and Colleagues,

I have dedicated my life, personally and professionally, to service. Service to my God, my family, my community, and our beloved vocation. I have worked with many of you throughout my career including 44 years of dedicated service to the distinguished GFSPA and the NFDMA, both organizations I cherish and hold in the highest regard. I have had the honor of serving in every elected position on the board of directors for the GFSPA and it has been my privilege to work with what I consider to be the finest group of funeral service practitioners in the country. District by district we have toiled and even argued to protect the integrity of funeral service and without a doubt, I believe the families we serve will be the direct beneficiaries of our efforts. 44 years of unwavering service, phone calls, conferences, contentious votes, and comforting the children and spouses of colleagues we lost, many of whom had become like family.

Malcolm Gladwell, author of the bestseller, "Outliers", proposed that it takes 10,000 hours of intense training to achieve mastery of complex skills and material. I long ago stopped counting the hours I have dedicated to this profession and still do not believe I have mastered my craft. Technological advancements, pandemics, epidemics, cultural norms, global economics and psychological research continue to change the landscape of the industry we have devoted our lives to. It's the conversations we have as a collective, the brain trust of funeral service, that inspire us to provide the highest levels of professionalism to our families. I have learned from you and you from I, but together we persevere, forging new partnerships that will allow us to better serve those entrusted to our care.

After 385,440 hours, I am as motivated as ever to continuing striving for a better tomorrow by training the next generation of practitioners to advance our cause. To bequeath future industry leaders a foundation of ethical business practices and compassion. I continue to stand on the frontlines and I continue to stand with you. It is my hope that I can count on your vote for the 2023 Robert H. Miller Award for funeral director of the year when ballots are released this month! A vote for me is a vote for those who came before us like Robert H. Miller. Those that did not become practitioners for the notoriety and benefit, but because they believe in service. Service to God, service to their families, communities and this dear profession of ours.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory B. Levett, CFSP, CCO