



THE LIGATURE

"The Tie That Binds"

Official Publication of the

John A. Gupton College

Alumni Association

Spring/Summer Edition - 2022

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**JOHN A.
GUPTON
ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION**

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Websites

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Bobby W. Cook

Newsletter
Editor

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Letter from the President

Greetings Alumni,

On a rainy September 13, 1814, British warships sent a downpour of shells and rockets onto Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor, relentlessly pounding the American fort for more than 25 hours. The bombardment, known as the Battle of Baltimore, came only weeks after the British had attacked Washington, D.C., burning the Capitol, the Treasury and the President's house. A week earlier, Francis Scott Key, a 35-year-old American lawyer, had boarded the flagship of the British fleet on the Chesapeake Bay in hopes of persuading the British to release a friend who had recently been arrested. Key's tactics were successful, but because he and his companions had gained knowledge of the impending attack on Baltimore, the British did not let them go. They allowed the Americans to return to their own vessel but continued guarding them. Under their scrutiny, Key watched on September 13 as the barrage of Fort McHenry began eight miles away. "It seemed as though mother earth had opened and was vomiting shot and shell in a sheet of fire and brimstone," Key wrote later. But when darkness arrived, Key saw only red erupting in the night sky. Given the scale of the attack, he was certain the British would win. The night was long, but in the clearing smoke of "the dawn's early light" on September 14, he saw the American flag—not the British Union Jack—flying over the fort, announcing an American victory. Key put his thoughts on paper while still on board the ship, setting his words to the tune of a popular English song. His brother-in-law, commander of a militia at Fort McHenry, read Key's work and had it distributed under the name "Defense of Fort McHenry." The *Baltimore Patriot* newspaper soon printed it, and within weeks, Key's poem, now called "The Star-Spangled Banner," appeared in print across the country, immortalizing his words—and forever naming the flag it celebrated. As we approach both Memorial Day and Independence Day, it always makes me pause and give silent reverence to the country that I love. We all have the privilege of living in the world's most generous, innovative, inclusive, and courageous nation. Endless opportunity exists here for anyone willing to work hard enough to achieve their goals and desires. Unfortunately, there are many who would have you believe otherwise because they seek to destroy our unique Republic from within. I personally weep for every Veteran that we lay to rest because the images of the flag, and what it represents sends a clear message about the sacrifice made by our Veterans. The sounds of Taps as it echoes throughout a cemetery with a soldier standing at attention, saluting the Veterans casket is a powerful statement. Freedom always comes under attack when someone is seeking power over someone else.

Remember that the next time someone tries to tell you America is a bad place. Join me this Memorial Day as we honor those brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. And then on July 4th – join me in celebration of the Nation who started as a small group who sought freedom and independence and challenged the most powerful King in the world at the time. We are one nation under God and we are worthy of celebration!



Sincerely,

Bobby W. Cook
Class of 2013



I would like to challenge the class
of 2013 to attend this years
Reunion. Hope to see you there.

INSIDE THIS EDITION:

- Alumni Reunion 2022

- old, older, oldest

- Letter from the president



- Fall & Spring Top 10%

- 25- & 50-year pin recipients

- Obituaries

And More!

Alumni Reunion

Friday, August 5th

WHAT: Reception

WHEN: Friday, August 5th at 6:00 P.M.

WHERE: Loews Vanderbilt Hotel



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Wilbert[®]

Saturday, August 6th

WHAT: Breakfast

WHEN: Saturday, August 6^h at 8:00 A.M.

WHERE: Loews Vanderbilt Hotel



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Batesville



Matthews Aurora
FUNERAL SOLUTIONS

WHAT: Business Meeting

WHEN: Saturday, August 6^h at 10:00 A.M.

WHERE: John A. Gupton College



Alumni
Association

Alumni Reunion Cont.

Saturday, August 6th
Evening Event and Dinner

**COST FOR DINNER AND SHOW IS
\$125.00 PER PERSON, payments
made to the website DUE BY JUNE
30th. (guptonalumni.com, click on
Donate)**

We will gather at Loews Vanderbilt Hotel for
dinner and to enjoy a **unique** and
mysterious evening with **Nashville's
Premier Magician, Jason Michaels.**
**Dinner will begin at 6 P.M. and the hour-
long show will begin at 7 P.M.**

**Room Reservations
are due by June 30th.**

Call 1-888-879-0462
to reserve a room
The contracted rate
for Alumni Members is
\$279 per night.

Jason is an award-winning magician, professional
speaker, and author who inspires and amazes
audiences around the world. A storyteller by heart,
Jason connects with audiences by combining
unforgettable, true stories with impossible mysteries.
He has been performing sleight of hand, the art of
illusion, and theater for almost three decades and
has entertained audiences in twenty-five countries.



**Nashville's Premier Magician,
Jason Michaels.**



Class of 1997 – 25-year pin recipients

Dexter Adams
David Akard, III
Kenneth Allen
Jerry Bayless
Brian Daley
Janie Green
Kevin Harkness
Andrea Horton
Gerald Jones, II
Terry Justice, Jr.
Justin Kent
Ronald Longmire, Jr.
Mitchell Mason
John Nix
James Overton



Troy Pierce
Foy Rigney
James Romines
Lolietta Shaw-Ford
Wayne Slighter
James Taylor
Greg Thayer
Sunshine Turley
Holly Wix-Dezarn
Richelle Worrell
Roger Wynne, Jr.

Class of 1972 – 50-year pin recipients

William Appleton
Frank Burkes
Christopher Marion
Charles Harrison
Denise Henderson
John Jones, Jr.
Homer Lewis
Jerry Lowery
Terry Mallory
Earl McEachern
David Milka



Frank Moore
Sidney Risher, Jr.
Alex Roberts
Walter Samuels
Norman Smith
George Spivey
William Taylor
Vester Tucker
John Wice

We would like to encourage each Alumni Member listed above to attend the Reunion to receive their pins. The pins will be given out during the business meeting on Saturday morning.



Ernest Reeves, age 83, of Humboldt, passed away Friday, December 17, 2021, in Jackson. He was a **1982 graduate of John A Gupton College of Mortuary Science**.

Mr. Reeves is survived by his wife of 64 years, Ruth Ann Reeves; two sons: Ernie Reeves (Linda) and Bob Horn (Katie); two daughters Karen Reeves Douglas (Tony) and Amy Reeves Potter (Blake); a sister, Kay Reeves Piletere (Frank); eight grandchildren: Kristopher Douglas, Kelsey Little (Spencer), Tyler Hawk (Brittany), Andy Hawk (Tana), Riley Hawk (Sydni), Nathan Hawk, Emily Hawk, and Amanda Palmer (Will); five great grandchildren: Liam, Skyler, Lexi, Cade, and Emmy.

Burial took place in the Darden Cemetery.

Roger Kent Burke, 81, of Cookeville, Tennessee passed from this life on Friday, February 18, 2022. He was an active funeral director, and embalmer for 60 plus years, serving numerous communities in Tennessee, where he was involved in the funeral of several well-known people. He was a graduate from Cookeville Central High in 1959, and from John A. Gupton Mortuary College in 1963. Graveside Service for Roger Kent Burke was held Monday, February 21, 2022, at 2:00 pm at Cookeville City Cemetery with Bro. Roger Cooper officiating. Visitation with the family was held Sunday, February 20, 2022, from 4:00 pm until 8:00 pm at Crest Lawn Funeral Home.



Mr. James Robert "J.R." Bass, age 80, of Gordonsville, TN, passed away on Thursday, November 4, 2021.

J.R. was born September 30, 1941, in Nashville, TN, a son of the late Paul Bridgeforth Bass and Roberta Thomas Bass Payne. He was also preceded in death by Brother; Richard Thomas Bass and Sister; Linda Carol Bass Finley.

J.R. married Cora Goad Farmer on October 10, 1975.

James Robert attended school at New Middleton Elementary and later came to Gordonsville High School where he was a graduate of the 1959 class. After high school, he attended John A. Gupton College of Mortuary Sciences and received his degree in Mortuary Science in 1960. Visitation with the family was held at the Gordonsville Chapel of Bass Funeral Homes on Saturday from 11AM until service time at 7PM.

Graveside Services and Interment took place Sunday, November 7, 2021, at 1PM at the Gordonsville Cemetery

In Memory



Fall Semester 2021- Top 10%



Alana Alberto
John Blade
Tiffany Bowman
Jesse Byers
Lauren Callihan
Chadwick Casey
Kenneth Dunn
Paisley Eads
Shannon Harrison
Stephanie Hauser
Lyndsey Lowery
Brandy Massey
Daniella McLellan
Rickey McNeese
Daniel Morgan
John Musgrove
Faith Petree
Heather Poston
Calia Riden

Murfreesboro, TN
Fairview, TN
Cleveland, TN
Loganville, GA
Goodlettsville, TN
Marion, MS
Erwin, TN
Bristol, TN
Bradford, TN
Erin, TN
Hayti, MO
Brush Creek, TN
Nashville, TN
Mount Juliet, TN
Rockwood, TN
Soso, MS
Clinton, TN
Tullahoma, TN
Old Hickory, TN

Spring Semester 2022- Top 10%



Alana Alberto
Carmenise Bledsoe
Lauren Callihan
Maranda Cawthon
Victoria Cross
Samuel Day
Bradford Fair
Sarah Grant
Molly Hailey
Lacey Hassencahi
Blake Irions
Lyndsey Lowery
Estreya McCanna
Ricky McNeese
Patrick Moore
Davis Murray
Leah Myers
Hannah Parsley
Gretchen Quinn
Callia Riden
Joshua Sparks
George Tazzini

Murfreesboro, TN
Memphis, TN
Goodlettsville, TN
Bruceton, TN
Poplar Bluff, MO
Chattanooga, TN
Clarksdale, MS
Dayton, TN
Portage, IN
Ooltewah, TN
Hayti, MO
Hayti, MO
Clarksville, TN
Mount Juliet, TN
Chattanooga, TN
Springfield, TN
Etowah, TN
Woodbury, TN
Jackson, TN
Old Hickory, TN
Grand Rapids, MI
Longmeadow, MA



Danny E. McCollum, age 69, of Chapel Hill TN, passed away on Wednesday, October 13, 2021. The family held visitation 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Saturday, October 16, 2021, at Spry Memorial Chapel.

The funeral followed at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, October 16, 2021, at Spry Memorial Chapel with Bro. Caleb Lewis officiating. Burial took place at Knights of Pythias Cemetery. He leaves to cherish his memory, his wife of 48 years, Debbie Lewis McCollum; his son, David McCollum (wife, Heather); Pop of Rylie McCollum; siblings, Glenn McCollum (wife, Norma) and Lou Ann Beasley (husband, Wayne); sister-in-law, Yvonne Lewis; and a host of nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Rev. Edward (E.H.) and Dorothy McCollum. He was a 1973 graduate of John A. Gupton Mortuary College in Nashville.

Carrie Lee Coggins White, 94, widow of William Joseph "Billy" White (1964 John A. Gupton College graduate) of Old Shoals Junction Road died at her home on Monday, November 29, 2021. In 1952 she and her husband Billy founded Parker-White Funeral Home where she served for 65 years. She was active in the community and was a charter member and former president of the Ware Shoals Woman's Civic Club. Surviving are a son, William Joseph White, Jr. (1978 John A. Gupton College graduate) (Marie) of Ware Shoals, two daughters, Jane Farr (Edward C.) of Ware Shoals, and Jenny Pitts of Ware Shoals, two sisters, Virginia C. Trammell (Ed) of Spartanburg and Mabel C. Foster of Cheraw, five grandchildren, and four great grandchildren. Funeral services were held at 1 PM on Saturday, December 4, 2021, at the Ware Shoals United Methodist Church with Rev. Dr. William "Bill" Rogers officiating. Burial will follow in Oakbrook Memorial Park.



How old is old when we are talking about a cemetery?

PORTIONS OF AN ARTICLE PUBLISHED ON OLDEST.ORG

OLD

According to the American Cemetery Association, the Myles Standish Burial Ground is the **oldest maintained cemetery in the United States**. The cemetery is located in Duxbury, Massachusetts and was in use from 1638 – 1789. It only contains about 130 marked graves, which belonged to several well-known Pilgrims who traveled on the Mayflower, including Captain Myles Standish, the cemetery's namesake.

OLDER

The Jewish Cemetery in Worms, Germany, which is also called Heiliger Sand (Holy Sand), is the **oldest existing Jewish cemetery in Europe**. The Jewish community in Worms was established sometime in the 11th century and the oldest grave in the cemetery dates back to around 1058/59. In medieval times, the Jewish community in Worms thrived and many notable Jewish leaders lived in the area and are buried in the cemetery.

OLDEST

The ancient European cemetery known as **Gross Fredenwalde** is currently believed to be the **oldest cemetery in the world**. According to researchers, it is the earliest known instance of a "true cemetery", in which people purposely and carefully buried the dead together. The grave site **dates back to the Mesolithic era** and finding multiple graves at one site from this time period is rare. People did not start burying the dead together until about 3,000 years later.

MEMORIAL DAY

IN HONOR OF OUR HEROES



JOHN A. GUPTON COLLEGE

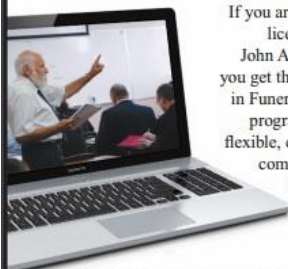
A Professional Tradition Since 1946

Alumni
Association

BETTY
WHITE
1922-2021



ON-LINE ASSOCIATE DEGREE IN FUNERAL SERVICE



If you are interested in becoming a licensed funeral professional, John A. Gupton College can help you get there. The Associate Degree in Funeral Service is an accredited program. Our online program is flexible, career-focused and may be completed in 12 or 16 months. Financial Aid is available.

For information concerning cost and program call 615-327-3927, go to our website at guptoncollege.edu or email admissions@guptoncollege.edu.



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CONTINUING EDUCATION ON-LINE

John A. Gupton College has developed online continuing education courses. These courses have been approved for CEU hours by both Tennessee and Kentucky Boards. The online subjects range from funeral service history, embalming techniques, funeral home management, grief psychology and bereavement counseling. For information concerning cost and program call 615-327-3927, go to our website at guptoncollege.edu or email admissions@guptoncollege.edu.



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John A. Gupton Alumni Association

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