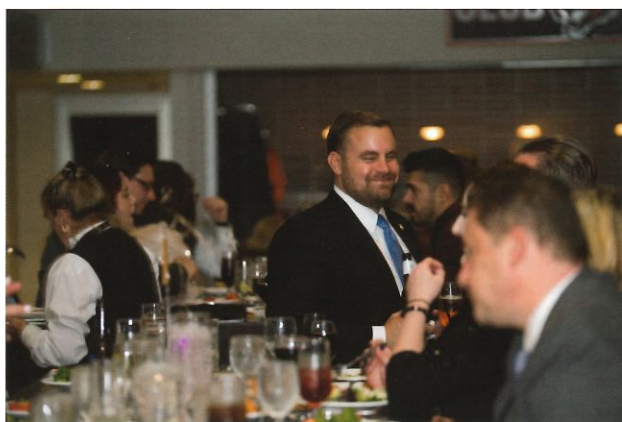


Attendees enjoying the CCMS gala included (right) Bradley Chute and (far right) ICCFA Cremation Program Coordinator and Cremation Counsel Poul Lemasters, Esq., a CCMS alumnus, and Shelby Kaylor.



family and friends paid tribute to their loved ones, who had made organ, eye and tissue donations, by putting the finishing touches on their floragraph portraits.

Additionally, as a part of Donate Life's celebration of its 15th annual Rose Parade float, Dignity Memorial sponsored the new "Making a Difference Rose Dedication Program," which presents honorary silk roses to recognize and give thanks to organ procurement organizations, transplant centers, eye banks and tissue banks across the United States. Those roses were placed on the Donate Life float by Dignity Memorial representatives, the CEO and president of the American Association of Tissue Banks, the CEO and president of the Eye Bank Association of America, the program manager of NATCO, The Organization for Transplant Professionals, the CEO and president of LifeShare Transplant Donor Services of Oklahoma, the past president of the Association

for Multicultural Affairs in Transplantation, and the CEO of OneLegacy and chairman of the Donate Life Rose Parade Float.

SCI is the largest provider of death-care products and services. It owns and operates 1,509 funeral homes and 476 cemeteries in 45 states, eight Canadian provinces, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico.

■ **CINCINNATI COLLEGE OF MORTUARY SCIENCE**, Cincinnati, Ohio, recently hosted a "Transforming Death Care Education" gala. "CCMS, the oldest mortuary college in the nation, unveiled its plans for transforming death care education" said Jack E. Lechner Jr., CCMS president and CEO. Central to the initiative is the establishment of an educational cremation center on the CCMS campus.

"When I started in funeral service, the national cremation rate was 5.69 percent. In 2016 the national cremation rate reached 50 percent and is projected to keep growing.

There are 22 states that require some form of cremation certification. We at CCMS believe it is time that a regionally and professionally accredited, degree granting, death-care educational institution provide the highest quality education and training within a campus-based crematory, offering assurance that death care practitioners receive the education and training required to become technically and ethically grounded cremationists," said Lechner.

The event honored CCMS 1974 alumnus Kenneth A. Cahall, president of the National Funeral Directors Association. More than 300 alumni and friends attended the evening at Paul Brown (Bengals) Stadium's East Lounge. Guests enjoyed a spectacular view of the Queen City skyline through the venue's 62-foot floor to ceiling window overlooking the banks of the Ohio River. Jack E. Lechner Jr., CCMS president and CEO, presented Cahall with a framed United States flag with a certificate documenting that it was flown over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Cahall is the 12th CCMS alumnus to be installed as NFDA president.

CCMS also has inducted its first four members into its new Hall of Fame. The four have all served as president of the National Funeral Directors Association. They are Kenneth A. Cahall, CFSP, current president; and past presidents Robert L. Shank Sr., CFSP; Dwayne Spence, CFSP; and William C. Wappner, CFSP. All four are also past presidents of the Ohio Funeral Directors Association. The Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science and the NFDA both were established in 1882.

■ Members of the **CONNECTICUT FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION**, Wethersfield, Connecticut, collected toys for the **Connecticut National Guard Service**

Pictured with toys collected for Operation ELF are, from left, Connecticut Funeral Directors Association Executive Committee member Thomas J. Tierney; 2018 President Edward J. Sheehy Jr., CFSP, CPC, CCO; Executive Committee member Melissa Melin-Miles; 2017 President Robert L. Muccino Jr., Executive Director John F. Cascio; Immediate Past President Howard K. Hill, CFSP, CPC, CCO; and Executive Committee member Jacqueline Teske.

