

BOOK STALL

EXPLORING THE HEART OF FUNERAL SERVICE
BY TODD VAN BECK

Funeral Service counselling is difficult.

Funeral service is not an easy career to take on and is, even more, a challenging career to excel at ... yet most funeral professionals do excel in navigating and traversing the troubled waters of grief communication.

Todd Van Beck, the author of new book, *Exploring the Heart of Funeral Service*, says: "Most funeral professionals excel at human caring, human compassion and human concern, which makes a career in funeral service as unique and special as the personality and character of every descendant in every community that members of this noble profession are called upon to take care of. A career in funeral service, and ministry on demand, are synonyms.

"Funeral professionals have two major responsibilities, caretaking of the dead and caregiving to the living. Few occupations carry such ominous duties and responsibilities," says Mr Van Beck.

This latest in a series of books on the funeral profession by Mr Van Beck, a respected US funeral director and lecturer, is composed of two parts. The first is *Navigating Successful Funeral Communications*, which explores the general philosophical topics and, second, is *Principles of Funeral Service Counselling*, which will explore counselling and helping topics such as the foundation of funeral counselling, the challenges of funeral counselling and more. However, this is not a textbook on counselling techniques;

instead, it is a book devoted to analysing and exploring the nuances unique to funeral service counselling.

This is a book written by a funeral professional for other funeral professionals. Mr Van Beck has selected 17 distinctive landmarks in funeral counselling which will be explored in the first part of this book. He adds: "There most certainly are more. I know I have left out many but, in my humble assessment, these 18 landmarks are the core in navigating wisely the issues encountered in funeral counselling."

Todd Van Beck lives in Nashville, Tennessee, with his wife Georgia. He formerly served as General Manager of John B Turner & Son Mortuary in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and was an educator at Cincinnati College of Mortuary College of Mortuary Science, Hudson Valley College, New England Institute and Commonwealth Institute.

He is the Dean of the College of Funeral Management at the University of Memphis, a Certified Funeral Service Practitioner and a member of the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice. He is also a certified embalmer, the author of four books and more than 400 professional articles, many of which have been published in "Funeral Director Monthly".

Mr Van Beck has received an honorary Doctorate Degree in Humane Letters from Commonwealth Institute of Funeral Service, Houston, Texas, Master of Arts Degree in Pastoral Ministry from Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Cincinnati, Ohio, Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology and Philosophy from Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Mortuary Arts and Sciences Diploma from New England Institute of Anatomy, Sanitary Science, Embalming and Funeral Directing, Boston, Massachusetts.



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