



**For Immediate Release**

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## **FUNERAL SERVICE FOUNDATION AWARDS** **JOSEPH E. HAGAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Brookfield, Wis—The Funeral Service Foundation (FSF) has awarded two outstanding mortuary science school students, Kendra Pilon and George Adams, each a \$1,000 Joseph E. Hagan Memorial Scholarship.

Eighteen students representing nine mortuary science schools participated in the 2007 Joseph E. Hagan Memorial scholarship program. Students were asked to explain why they chose to enter funeral service, and discuss what they believe to be a great new opportunity for the profession.

“Each participating student demonstrated a sincere passion for funeral service in their essay,” said FSF Trustee Rich Geib. “The Foundation is noticing an increase in the number of students applying for our scholarships that are first-generation. These students have been inspired to enter funeral service because of a life-changing event, and they have some great, innovative ideas for the future of our profession.”

Scholarship recipient Kendra Pilon is pursuing a Bachelor’s degree in funeral home management from the New England Institute at Mount Ida College in Newton, Mass. Her curiosity into the preparation of the deceased began at age twelve, and eventually turned into the desire to facilitate the grieving process for families. Pilon believes the future of funeral service lies in quality service and technological advances. She looks forward to educating families on their options for personalization.

Recipient George Adams feels he was called to funeral service to serve a great purpose in life. He believes a promising opportunity for funeral service is to improve upon the cosmetics used in restorative arts, in order to provide families with the best memory picture of their loved one. Adams is pursuing an Associate’s degree in funeral service from Fayetteville Technical Community College in Fayetteville, N.C.

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The Joseph E. Hagan Memorial Scholarship, established in 2000 by the FSF Board of Trustees, honors funeral service's finest students through one or more scholarships of \$1,000. Students must be enrolled in a program accredited by the American Board of Funeral Service Education and submit an essay to be considered for the award.

Applications for the 2008 Joseph E. Hagan Scholarship will be available in January, 2008, at [www.funeralservicefoundation.org](http://www.funeralservicefoundation.org).

### **About Joseph E. Hagan**

With a funeral service career spanning 52 years at Joseph Gawler's Sons Funeral Home in Washington, D.C., Joseph E. Hagan was known for arranging and directing the funerals of some of the highest government officials in the country, including presidents, Supreme Court justices, senators and other diplomats. Assisting in the funerals of notables such as President Dwight Eisenhower, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, he was most noted for directing the highly profiled funeral of President John F. Kennedy in November 1963.

### **About the Funeral Service Foundation**

The Funeral Service Foundation, through grants, scholarships and research initiatives, supports career and professional development in funeral service, the advancement of funeral service and allied professions, public awareness and education, and the improvement of children's lives. For information, visit [www.funeralservicefoundation.org](http://www.funeralservicefoundation.org).

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