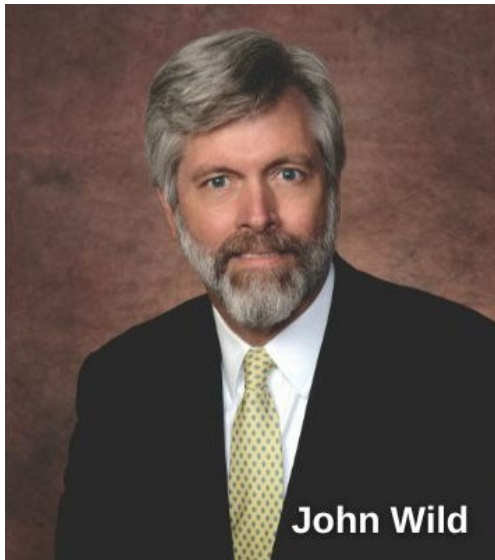


June 2026



**TRUST
UPDATES**

To provide the best educational opportunities for the advancement and support of all who work within and for the independent funeral service profession.



Meet the 2026 Ambassadors of the Year

The Trust is pleased to announce its 2026 Ambassador of the Year Award recipients. Established in 2021, this award honors individuals for their outstanding contributions to the mission and vision of the Selected Educational Trust, their personal contributions to the independent funeral service profession, and their commitment to provide lifelong learning opportunities for all who work within and for this time-honored profession. Each year, two individuals, a Funeral Service Professional and an Industry Partner Leader, are selected by the Board of Trustees to receive this distinguished award. This year's recipients are:

- **John Wild**, Iles Funeral Homes, Inc.-Dunn's Funeral Home and Crematory, Des Moines, IA, 2026 Ambassador of the Year - Funeral Service Professional
- **Jake Johnson**, Johnson Consulting, Scottsdale, AZ, 2026 Ambassador of the Year - Industry Partner Leader

The Awards Ceremony will take place during the Selected Educational Trust Reception on Wednesday, September 2 at the Omni Louisville Hotel, Louisville, KY, in conjunction with [Selected's Annual Meeting](#).

The Trust thanks [Physicians Mutual](#), sponsor of the Ambassador of the Year Awards Program since its inception in 2021.

Be an Ambassador Envoy! Make a gift to the Trust in honor of this year's Award recipients and be recognized as an Ambassador Envoy to show your support for these outstanding professionals.

Make a Gift in Their Honor



Off to the Races: The Winner's Circle Raffle Launches

This year, the Selected Educational Trust is putting a new spin on fundraising at Selected's Annual Meeting with the debut of The Winner's Circle Raffle. Participants will have the opportunity to enter to win a select collection of highly curated prizes and experiences, all while supporting the educational programs and scholarships that strengthen the future of independent funeral service.

We're kicking things off with a prize package that is sure to excite bourbon enthusiasts, generously donated by Kevin McKay, Cremation Recycling.

Bourbon Collector's Bundle

One lucky winner will take home an exceptional collection of five sought-after bottles:

- Colonel E.H. Taylor Straight Rye
- Blue Run Kentucky Straight Golden Rye Whiskey
- Old Forester Single Barrel, Barrel Strength
- Blanton's Straight from the Barrel
- Old Louisville 7-Year Double Oaked Single Barrel #16/160

Raffle tickets are \$25 each, with discounts available when purchasing multiple tickets, giving you even more chances to win. The winning ticket will be drawn during the Selected Educational Trust Reception at Selected's Annual Meeting in Louisville, KY on September 2, 2026.

Most importantly, every ticket purchased helps support the Selected Educational Trust and its mission to provide scholarships, job placement tools, and lifelong learning resources for funeral service professionals.

This is just the beginning. Additional Winner's Circle Raffle prizes will be announced throughout the summer leading up to Annual Meeting.

Don't miss your chance to enter the Winner's Circle while making a meaningful investment in the future of independent funeral service.

[Enter the Winner's Circle](#)



Attend Selected's Annual Meeting in Louisville for Free with the Stuart Comer Memorial Scholarship

The Trust will once again offer the [Stuart Comer Memorial Scholarship](#) to the [Selected Annual Meeting](#). Stuart Comer was a Past Board Member of the association and valued Selected for its ability to unite the best and brightest to learn from each other and grow together. In that spirit, this scholarship will grant one award to an eligible member of Selected Independent Funeral Homes. The recipient will receive registration for one to the 2026 Annual Meeting to be held September 2 – 5; four nights lodging at the Omni Louisville Hotel, Louisville, KY; and a \$500 travel stipend. All applications must be submitted by June 30.

[Apply Now](#)



New Listings in the Employment Center: Your Next Funeral Service Job Starts Here!

Looking for your next opportunity in funeral service? The Trust's Employment Center connects job seekers with independent funeral homes across the country. Find openings from Selected member firms that value quality and professionalism. Plus, thanks to Global Atlantic Financial Group, it's completely FREE to access! Start your job search today.

Current Listings:

- Licensed Embalmer
- Licensed Funeral Director/Embalmer
- Funeral Director Apprentice
- Director of Operations
- Funeral Director

[View Job Listings](#)

Thank You to Our Donors

May 1-31, 2026

Daniel J. Kochapski, Carmon Community Funeral Homes, Windsor, CT (In memory of Edward Murphy)
The Dodge Company, Debbie Dodge, Billerica, MA

Make your gift in memory or in celebration of a loved one, family member, colleague or friend. For more information on ways to give, contact [Stefanie](#).

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