

Vernie Fountain

Mr. Vernie Fountain has been associated with funeral service since 1965. As a graduate of the Kentucky School of Mortuary Science, Mr. Fountain became licensed as a funeral director in 1972 and as an embalmer in 1977. For eighteen years, until December 1995, he owned and operated Fountain Mortuary Service in Columbia, Missouri, which responded to over one-thousand deaths annually and was composed of the following five divisions: Embalming and Transportation, Forensic and Clinical Autopsy/Investigation, Cemetery (Exhumations & Grave Openings), Embalming Consulting and Fountain National Academy of Professional Embalming Skills. He currently owns and operates Fountain Embalming Services, Fountain National Academy of Professional Embalming Skills and Forensic Investigative Resources of the Midwest (F.I.R.M.), which is a licensed and insured private detective agency that focuses on death investigations and exhumations. All are headquartered in Springfield, Missouri.

Mr. Fountain is a very active member of the Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association and served for many years as Chairman of its Mass Fatality Disaster Emergency Response Committee and Chairman of its Organ and Tissue Committee. He is past president of the Missouri Funeral Supply Sales Club. In 2007, the Missouri Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association awarded him the Robert Knell Award, the highest award granted by that Association. He is also a member of the National Funeral Directors Association, the Funeral Ethics Association, the American Society of Embalmers, Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice and a former member of the National Association of Medical Examiners.

Mr. Fountain is a proud "United States Marine." He served in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War and is a member of Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the American Legion and the Marine Corps League. He is a Purple Heart recipient for wounds received by enemy fire in Vietnam on May 9, 1970. Following a thirteen-month stay in a military hospital, he was medically retired from the Marine Corps.