



It has been an honor beyond description to serve as your President of IFDA. I am deeply grateful for the trust you placed in me. This past year has flown by fast... very fast. It seems like just yesterday I stood before you reciting my incoming President's speech... crying at times while reflecting on my many blessings God has bestowed upon me.

I've enjoyed traveling the state, meeting most of you either at one of the nine district meetings, at one of the two Relevance Conferences, or at the Statehouse luncheon. I honestly think that Jon Ballard (our Ambassador) has the best job... calling on all of you, lending advice, or simply listening to your concerns.

This past year, your association has not only continued its growth, but it has represented all of us on issues pertaining to alkaline hydrolysis, organ procurement, death doulas, and pre-need fraud... yes, pre-need fraud... and representing Indiana during NFDA's Advocacy Summit in Washington, D.C. Let's not forget the many hiccups many of us experienced this past year while working with our families with their special circumstances.

IFDA will continue to be your voice of reckoning while serving you, the membership. You will always be a friend of mine.

Experience has taught me that a loyal friend is one of life's greatest treasures. Family is important, but a true friend stands by your side through thick and thin, offering support, understanding, and steady loyalty. That chosen bond, built on trust and shared experiences, makes friendship a priceless gift. A loyal friend becomes family by choice, and their presence in your life is something truly irreplaceable. I am truly blessed to also have friends like Andy, Connie, Martha, Judi, and Bailey who have helped me along my journey representing IFDA and you, the membership.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention Andy's wife, Sheri (aka Banana Nana), who puts up with all of us calling Andy with questions or seeking advice on his days off, on the weekends, or even when he's on vacation. I've learned one thing... it's Andy answers his phone because he cares. Thank you for caring, Andy.

I leave this office knowing the future of funeral service is in good hands. Dale, Greg, Jim, Pat, Andy, the staff at IFDA, our District Directors, the Hightower Board, the Education Foundation Board, and the newly licensed funeral directors, interns, and mortuary students who are ready and able to carry this funeral service torch into the future.

I would also like to thank my employees who have run the funeral homes when I'm out doing the "IFDA stuff," as they call it. Without them, this would not have been possible.

I want to thank all of the Sponsors and Vendors for making this Association and its annual convention a success. We couldn't have done it without you. Thank you again.

I want to thank my late parents, Ray & Sharon White, for instilling their work values, wisdom, and life lessons they passed down; my children, Garrett, Morgan, and Ty, for becoming the amazing adults they've grown to be, and yes to my first granddaughter Lyla (the one that I cannot say NO too).

Lastly, to my wife and best friend, Rachelle — she's been the rock, voice of reason, listener, cheerleader, and enforcer. I love you very much and I wouldn't change anything. It's been one hell of a ride.

Thank you and God Bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Raymond E. White Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Raymond E. White Jr.