

COUNTY OF KANE

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Media Release

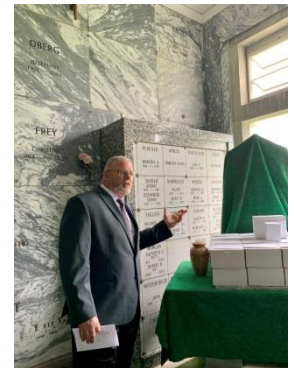
5/27/22

Memorial Held by Coroner for Unclaimed Individuals in Kane County

Since 2013, Kane County Coroner Rob Russell has made it his mission to make sure unclaimed cremains in his care are treated with dignity and respect.

Sadly, the number of unclaimed remains in the County has grown exponentially, much of the increase blamed on the COVID pandemic.

“People are not claiming their family members. In recent years we have seen an uptick in the number of unclaimed. Our staff does the best job possible to contact next of kin, but some people simply refuse to claim their family members. We cannot force them. Sometimes, the deceased have no surviving family. I believe it is our responsibility to provide a dignified final resting place for these unclaimed individuals,” Russell said.



On Friday May 27, Coroner Russell, along with Chaplains Al Keating and Ed Hunter of the Elgin Police Department, held a non-denominational service at the North Cemetery in St. Charles (1200 N. 5th Avenue) for 35 individuals whose cremated remains were left in the care of the Kane County Coroner’s office.



Remains are considered unclaimed after multiple attempts to contact next of kin proves unsuccessful or no one comes to pick up the cremated remains after being notified of a death. However, since 2013 unclaimed remains have been interred by the Coroner’s office.

“This is the fifth time that we’ve done this and each and every time, it’s important to me that we do it and that we do it *right*,” Russell said.

In Memoriam

- Susan Elizabeth Visser – Aug. 20, 2016
- David Media Ceja Castellanos – May 6, 2019
- Robert Randal Labisoniere – Aug. 26, 2019
- Alfred G. Brauch – Sept. 20, 2019
- Ricardo O. Bruce – Dec. 25, 2019
- Joseph Peter Rizzo – Dec. 25, 2019
- Gary Michael Kursaitis – Jan. 30, 2020
- Zoraida Laureano – Feb. 10, 2020
- Guy Mario Way – March 7, 2020
- Joe Duane Craig – March 29, 2020
- Emmett L. Hill – April 2, 2020
- Lorrie A. Moore – April 17, 2020
- Gordon Thompson – May 9, 2020
- Charlie Casillas – July 10, 2020
- Richard Tamme – July 15, 2020
- Phil Edwin Dierschow – July 30, 2020
- Eulalio Nieves – Aug. 1, 2020
- Avadhani Mallela – Aug. 13, 2020
- Gerald Guss – Dec. 2, 2020
- John Charles Paulauski III – Dec. 11, 2020
- James J. Bell – Dec. 30, 2020
- Margaret Rust – Dec. 31, 2020
- Robert David Warburton – Jan. 8, 2021
- Roger L. Barnes – Feb. 1, 2021
- Lois Butcher – April 4, 2021
- Derrick Witcher – April 13, 2021
- Paul Bolliger – Aug. 29, 2021
- James Sodt – Sept. 3, 2021
- Valerie Cole – Sept. 5, 2021
- Thomas Gilmer Frost – Sept. 28, 2021
- Regina Tosco – Oct. 18, 2021
- Edward L. Anderson – Nov. 6, 2021
- John H. Olsen – Nov. 12, 2021
- Calvin Gilkey – Oct. 29, 2013
- Everet Lloyd “Jack” Knabb – Sept. 2, 2000