

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date:

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**Virginia Funeral Directors Association Elects
Robert "Rob" L. Finch, Jr., President**

Richmond, Va. – The Virginia Funeral Directors Association (VFDA) welcomes the 2014-15 Board of Directors. The association held its 126th Convention in Virginia Beach, Virginia, June 29-July 2, 2014. At the Association's annual business meeting held on July 1, 2014 the association introduced the new board members.

The 2014-15 President of the Virginia Funeral Directors Association is Robert "Rob" L. Finch, Jr. Finch is an owner of Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral and Cremation Service in Altavista and Gladys, Virginia. Representing the fourth generation of the Finch family, Rob currently is the President of the firm and is responsible for its overall direction and operations. He attended Lynchburg College, graduated with a B.S. Degree in 1980 from Elon University, received an Associate Degree from Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service in Atlanta, Georgia in 1992, and was licensed as a funeral service licensee in that same year. He was named VFDA Outstanding Member of the Year in 2008 and Virginia's Funeral Director of the Year in 2003 and 2009. Rob is dedicated to community activities and is an active board member of The Greater Lynchburg Community Trust, the Altavista Vocational Advisory Council, First National Bank of Altavista and the Citizens for Altavista Baseball. He is a former member and Past President of the Lions Club of Altavista, a past board member of the Altavista Area YMCA and the Altavista Chamber of Commerce, and a member of Lane Memorial United Methodist Church.

"Finch & Finch Funeral and Cremation Service maintains the family tradition of offering exceptional value, attention to even the smallest detail, and caring, compassionate service to families in their time of need."

"It is imperative that the VFDA continues our emphasis on helping local funeral service providers to create, nurture, and preserve caring relationships with the families we all serve within our communities. As an association, our mission is to represent the funeral director and the profession in the public forum to defend the freedom and the ability of the funeral director to practice the profession in the best interest of our client families. I would reaffirm all of these as the reasons we exist as an organization."

"Despite changes in funeral service, the bottom line for VFDA will be to preserve and honor the sanctity of the relationship between client families and funeral service professionals."

"During the coming year as President, I will be visiting local funeral homes throughout the Commonwealth and our goal is to extend an open hand of cooperation and assistance to funeral service professionals so we all may better serve our local families in their greatest time of need."

The 2014-15 Virginia Funeral Directors Association Board Members:

Robert Finch, Jr., President, Finch & Finch, Inc. Funeral and Cremation Service, Altavista and Gladys, Va.

I. Ray Sloan, President-Elect, Botetourt Funeral Home, Buchanan, Va.

Larry Joines, First Vice President, Bassett Funeral Service, Bassett, Va.

Robert J. Gallagher, Second Vice President, Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home, Fairfax, Va.

Marty Hagy, Secretary-Treasurer, Hagy & Fawbush Funeral Home, Inc., Norton, Va.

Robert M. "Bob" Oman, Immediate Past President, Oman Funeral Home and Crematory, Chesapeake, Va.

Charles Parr, 2 year At-Large, Parr Funeral Home & Crematory, Suffolk, Va.

Matthew Buscher, 2 year At-Large, Advent Funeral Services, Falls Church, Va.

Haile L. "Butch" Gatewood, Jr., 1 year At-Large, Norris Funeral Service & Crematory, Inc., Martinsville, Va.

Matthew "Matt" Perry, 1 year At-Large, Frost Funeral Home, Abingdon, Va.

Michael Rorrer, Blue Ridge District, McCoy Funeral Home, Blacksburg, Va.

Jim Dickerson, Central District, Joseph W. Bliley Company, Inc., Richmond, Va.

Donna Vincent, Northern District, National Funeral Home, Falls Church, Va.

Tommy Slusser, Shenandoah District/Sergeant-At-Arms, Nicely Funeral Home, Inc., Clifton Forge, Va.

John A. Saville, Southside District, Heritage Funeral Service & Crematory, Lynchburg, Va.

Ted Castle, Southwest District/Chaplain, Castle Mortuary Transport, Bristol, Va.

Sarae Joyner, Tidewater District, Parr Funeral Home & Crematory, Suffolk, Va.

About Virginia Funeral Directors Association

The Virginia Funeral Directors Association was formed on September 30, 1887 in Richmond, Virginia. The VFDA is a voluntary association with membership affiliation in the National Funeral Directors Association. For more information on VFDA go to www.vfda.net.