



Audrey Thacker Receives First Ever Audrey Thacker Women of Excellence Award

CFSA is honored to announce the first ever award recipient for the Audrey Thacker Women of Excellence Award.

Audrey Thacker is the retired Chief Financial Officer and Vice President of Thacker Caskets, Inc. and Thacker Casket Manufacturing.

“The story of Audrey Thacker’s legacy is one rich in leadership, determination, and perseverance,” CFSA Executive Director, Tim Murphy, said.

Losing her husband in the late 70s left her charging forward to pull Thacker Casket Manufacturing out of crisis to lead them to their success today. She did this despite the industry telling her that a woman couldn’t or shouldn’t be president of a casket company.

“I am deeply honored and humbled to receive this prestigious award, named after me,” Thacker said. “Many of our vendors didn’t think a woman would be successful in the casket business, but we were determined to prove them wrong. Over the past 20 years, we’ve worked hard to grow our business. I can proudly say that we built our business on hard work, integrity, and perseverance.”

As an association, CFSA believed that this story deserved to be honored for many years to come, and thus created this award to honor Audrey Thacker and her incredible leadership.

The criteria for the award includes CFSA membership, a minimum of five years in the funeral supply industry, and a demonstration of exceptional innovation and leadership in her company.



CONFERENCE

Highlights

Larry Miller and Rodney Robinson Receive CFSA's Prestigious Lifetime Recognition Award

The esteemed award is CFSA's highest honor

CFSA honored two of its own with its prestigious Lifetime Recognition Award during the association's Annual Conference & Trade Show.

Larry Miller, former owner of Geneva Caskets, started working for Geneva Caskets at the young age of 19 in 1961. He bought the company in 1989, and since then has grown his network in the casket industry to work with and learn from a long list of acquaintances.

"I want to thank everybody for this recognition. It's another honor to receive it at the same time as my friend, Rodney Robinson," Miller said. "It's great to see some of the people that I've known for a lot of years [here.]"

Also honored this year was Rodney Robinson of Southern Craft Manufacturing, Inc. Robinson has had a rich career in the industry, starting in 1981 at Wallace

Metal Products in Richmond, IN. Rodney started Southern Craft Manufacturing, Inc. with his wife Tina in 1994, and it has since grown into a wide operation with over 130 employees, including his family members.

"I've been on this nominating committee many times and can tell you that there are individuals even more so than I that deserve this recognition," Robinson said. "Prior recipients like Bob York and Joel VerPlank have been mentors to me. Fellow recipient Larry Miller and men like Gene Ethridge and his son Bo, who I truly miss every day, have helped me immensely on the way."

The Lifetime Recognition Award is CFSA's highest honor, going to professionals who have devoted at least 35 years to raising professional standards and moving the industry forward with positive and progressive actions.



Larry Miller accepting his Lifetime Recognition Award from CFSA President, Justin Thacker.



Rodney Robinson accepting his Lifetime Recognition Award from CFSA President, Justin Thacker.



CONFERENCE

Highlights



From left: Nick Taddeo of Church & Chapel Metal Arts, Inc., Presson Thomson of Dixline Corporation, Andrew Williamson of Covington Casket Company, Inc., Andrew Kaplan of Cahill Nonwovens Company, LLC, Justin Thacker of Thacker Casket Manufacturing, Lori Eanes of C&L Containers, Inc., Charles Olivier-Dumont of Victoriaville & Co., Greg Beavers of Wise Products, Inc., Michael Bretherick of Iron City Stamping, Inc., Andy Lawrence of Tiedemann-Bevs Industries, Scott Weisenbach of Sich Casket Company, and Leland Robinson of Souther Craft Manufacturing

2023-24 Board of Directors Inducted

CFSA is honored to announce its 2023-24 Board of Directors.

Assuming the role of president is Greg Beavers of Wise Products, Inc. Charles Olivier-Dumont of Victoriaville & Co. will serve as vice president, Lori Eanes of C&L Containers, Inc. is treasurer and Justin Thacker of Thacker Casket Manufacturing transitions to become CFSA's immediate past president.

Michael Bretherick of Iron City Stamping, Inc., Andrew Kaplan of Cahill Nonwovens Company, LLC, Nick Taddeo

of Church & Chapel Metal Arts, Inc, and Andrew Williamson of Covington Casket Company, Inc. joined the board as new directors. They join existing board members, Dwayne Heeter of Matthews Aurora Funeral Solutions, Andy Lawrence of Tiedemann-Bevs Industries, Leland Robinson of Southern Craft Manufacturing, Presson Thomson of Dixline Corporation, and Scott Weisenbach of Sich Casket Company.

Leaving the board after completing his three-year term was Nicolas Lacasse, President of Cercueils Magog Caskets.



Nicolas Lacasse of Cercueils Magog accepting his board recognition plaque from 2022-23 CFSA President, Justin Thacker.



2022-23 CFSA President, Justin Thacker of Thacker Casket Manufacturing accepting his president gavel from CFSA Executive Director, Tim Murphy.