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Historic Alexander Funeral Home Building Reopened Under New Ownership

Gallatin, TN – September 8, 2017 - Bill Troutt and the Troutt family, along with Bill Gregory, announce the reopening of the historic property at the corner of Nashville Pike and Maple Street in Gallatin, under new ownership. The new Alexander Funeral Home & Cremation Center is now part of the Family Legacy family.

This property has been in the Alexander family for over fifty years, and the Troutt family is delighted to enter into this exciting new partnership.

“We have partnered with Bill Gregory and his family of funeral homes, in order to blend the tradition of the Alexander family with the progressive culture of Family Legacy,” says Bill Troutt, of him and his sons, James, Paul and Jon. “It was important to us to preserve this Gallatin historic landmark.”

Alexander Funeral Home & Cremation Center has opened its doors after its abrupt closing, by previous owners, at the end of July.

Funeral Home Staff

Owners of the new funeral establishment announced that Kenneth Parker will be the manager. Kenneth has worked at Alexander Funeral Home since the early 1980s, serving hundreds of Gallatin families over the decades. He is very passionate about the funeral business and takes great pride in the preparation process and helping families. He was a member of the Gallatin Morning Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow. He and his wife, Doris are members of the Church of our Savior Episcopal Church.

Terry Crockett, licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer, will also serve families at this location. Terry started in the funeral business at just 16 years of age and came to work for the Alexander family in 1972. He became manager of Alexander Funeral Home in the late '80s. Terry continued to work in the funeral industry until his retirement in 2016. He is excited to be coming back to the Alexander location.

Terry and his wife, Rhonda, lived in the Alexander funeral home for many years. Rhonda worked in banking, starting in Gallatin and then in Nashville for 25 years. In 1999, she left banking and came to work in the office at Alexander, where she handled financial matters for about 50 small firms purchased by the Loewen Group in Kentucky. She was involved in other activities in the Gallatin area for the next few years, including her work in marketing with Sumner Regional. In 2006 she returned to work at Alexander and Family Heritage Funeral Homes, where she worked until recently.

The Crockett's are members of St. John Vianney Catholic Church, where they have been members since 1972. Rhonda was a longtime member of the Gallatin Noon Rotary. She served several years on the Sumner Foundation Board, even chairing their gala one year. Terry is a past member of the Lion's Club and Charter member of the Sertoma club.

Two other long time Alexander employees will also be joining the team: Dewayne Harris, licensed funeral director, and Ronny Brooks, funeral home assistant.

Also serving families at Alexander Funeral Home & Cremation Center is Randy Nash. Randy is currently the manager at Crestview Memory Gardens, Funeral Home & Cremation on Highway 109 North. Randy started his career in the funeral business as a teenager, working visitations and funerals at Hendersonville Memory Gardens, Funeral Home & Cremation Center. He earned his funeral director and embalmers licenses in 2009. He has been with Family Legacy for most of his career. Randy is chairman-elect of the board of directors of the Gallatin Chamber of Commerce, Secretary-Treasurer of the Tennessee Funeral Directors Association and an active member of the National Funeral Directors Association. He and his wife, Ashlee, are co-owners of Binkley Nash Furniture and Design in Gallatin. Randy, Ashlee and their daughter, Anna Jayne, are lifelong residents of Gallatin, and attend First Baptist Church Gallatin.

About the Troutt Family

Bill Troutt's Grandfather, N. B. Echols was founder, owner, operator of Gallatin Buggy & Implement Co., a long-time standard just off the square in Gallatin, located in the building that is now Gibson Furniture.

Mr. Echols later sold his business to brother-in-law Allen Ramsey and began a new hardware business, West Main Hardware, again just off the square on West Main St. He and his wife of 60 plus years, Harriet, life-long Gallatin residents, lived in a home that was recently moved from the corner of Maple and Nashville Pike to make room for the new Vol State Bank.

Bill Troutt's paternal grandfather, James Robert Troutt Sr. was a constable and court officer in Sumner County. He and his wife of 50 plus years, Lena Smith Troutt were also life-long residents of Gallatin.

Bill Troutt's father, Dr. James Robert Troutt, was one of the six original founders of what is now known as the Sumner Regional Medical Center. He practiced medicine in Gallatin for 57 years.

Bill's mother, Mary Katherine Echols Troutt was a devoted wife, mother, homemaker and bookkeeper for her husband. They were married 56 years before his father's passing in 1998. Mary Katherine continued to live a beautiful life until her death in 2014 at age 99.

William (Bill) E. Troutt, an only child, has lived in Gallatin all his life. Bill met his wife-to-be, Paula Anne Alexander when her father, Paul Alexander, moved his funeral business to Gallatin in July of 1952. Dr.

James Robert and Mary Katherine Troutt, and Paul and Rubye Ann Alexander, and their families formed a long-time friendship. Bill's closest childhood friend was Tony Alexander.

Paula later became bookkeeper for all five of her father's funeral homes located in Gallatin, Madison, Westmoreland, Lafayette and Red Boiling Springs. She and her brother, Tony, were totally involved in helping their father operate the five funeral homes.

Bill and Paula had three sons, James (daughter, Lauren), Paul (Kelly, Luke and Katherine) and Jonathan (Kristen and Ruby), and are all excited to see the funeral home once again restored to the condition Mr. Paul Alexander would most certainly appreciate.

Paula, Tony and their mother, Rubye Anne all passed away in a span of less than four months in 2013.

According to Bill Troutt, "The tradition that the people of Gallatin have come to know and respect at the corner of Nashville Pike and Maple Street lives on."

"We chose to sell the funeral home building to Bill Gregory and partner in business with him mainly for the opportunity and promise to keep the Alexander name prominent in funeral business in the Gallatin area.

"I was raised in a Christian home by Christian parents, who were also raised by devout Christian parents – all attending Gallatin First Baptist. I have never known another church," Troutt says. "I gave my life to Christ at 9 years old. I have served as a deacon since 1982. I served in the military between 1966 and 1970."

About Bill Gregory and Family Legacy

Bill Gregory has operated cemeteries in middle Tennessee since the late '70s. He built his first funeral home in 1990, and prior to the purchase of the Alexander property, built his newest funeral home, Springfield Memorial Garden, Funeral Home & Cremation Center, in Robertson County in 2015. He has served the families of Sumner County since the purchase of Hendersonville Memory Gardens (formerly Woodlawn East) in 2002. He is a long serving board member for the Cemetery Association of Tennessee and the Southern Cemetery Cremation and Funeral Association.

Bill Gregory states, "The focus for Family Legacy is on celebrating life and sharing life stories. We are updating the building while keeping the historical feel. Our renovations include adding a reception center, and we will offer catering as a way to provide families the comfort of a shared meal. We provide unique memorial stationary for each family we serve designed and printed by our own print shop, and our services will remain affordable, the same as those as Crestview Funeral Home. We operate our own private crematory right here in Sumner County. Our exclusive 'Path of Life' approach to planning helps families create truly memorable life celebrations. We love being a part of the Gallatin community and look forward to serving the families in this new location."

The funeral home is open during renovations, and the staff invites the community to come by to learn more about the new ownership and see the improvements to the Alexander building. An open house will be planned in the near future.

For families preplanning, the funeral home offers a free Final Wishes Planner. All prearrangements made with other funeral homes will also be honored by the new location.

Bill Gregory owns and operates Family Legacy, a group of Middle Tennessee funeral homes, cemeteries and cremation centers. Their locations include Hendersonville, Crestview, Springfield, Cole & Garrett in both Goodlettsville and White House, West Harpeth, Life Celebration Center of Franklin, Sumner Memorial Gardens and Joelton Hills Memory Gardens. To learn more about Family Legacy visit their web site www.AFamilyLegacy.com or call the funeral home at 615-502-0011.