

LEOH Trip

July 15, 2021

Houston Farmers Market, National Museum of Funeral History



Ann



Joseph & Minh

Another trip, another fun day!
Thank you, LEOH trip leader,
and thank you, county bus drivers!

The Houston Farmers Market, located at 2520 Airline Drive, is the city's oldest and largest. Newly renovated and located on 18 acres, it touts two characteristics Houston is famous for: diversity and food!

So much to look at and so much to learn, as we all surveyed and shopped the huge variety of produce, herbs, spices, etc.





So many choices – not only food,
but plants and household items!

And...a blessing and a curse??? Some of us discovered the wonderful **El Bolillo Bakery** across the street. Walk in, grab a large serving platter and a large pair of tongs, and choose from a *huge* variety of baked goods and pastries on shelves lining the walls. Open a door, then use the tongs to grab all you and your platter can handle! Then on to the next door!



There are also refrigerated items. All look delicious!

Learn more at
houstonfarmersmarket.com

Jane is going for some goodies on the top shelf.

Meanwhile, Debbie considers a bakery item.

Later, she has made her selections, and exits the bakery, triumphant!



Our next stop:

National Museum of Funeral History

NM FH NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FUNERAL HISTORY®

It's THE place to visit when you are DYING to do something different!

New Exhibits

The History of Cremation
Developed in partnership with the Cremation Association of North America to tell the full-circle story of cremation in America: from chronicling its birth in Pennsylvania to demonstrating a step-by-step modern cremation process, stories of early cremationists and illuminating the seemingly endless possibilities for memorialization.

ICONS IN ASH

Icons in Ash
Opening Summer 2019
This exhibit explores memorial portraits made with the cremated remains of the deceased by artist Heide Matry. Her unique talent allows us to memorialize our loved ones in a way like never before.

October Halloween Headquarters



From the family-friendly Haunted House and the annual Halloween Classic Car Show and the Day of the Dead celebration and more, NMFH is YOUR Halloween Headquarters!

For more information on these and other 2019 events, please visit www.nmfh.org



NM FH NATIONAL MUSEUM OF FUNERAL HISTORY®

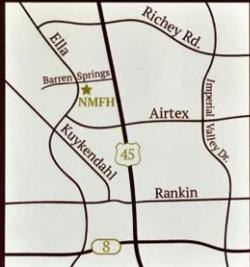
Where "Any day above ground is a good one."®

Experience a unique museum unlike any other, featuring America's largest collection of authentic, historical funeral service items. Featuring 15 permanent exhibits and a must-see gift shop!

Open 7 Days a Week*
Monday – Friday: 10am – 4pm
Saturday: 10am – 5pm | Sunday: 12pm – 5pm
Check website for holiday hours
FREE PARKING
HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE
*Except for certain holidays; check website for details.

For Admission Information go to www.nmfh.org

Group rates are available (minimum 25 people)
Guided tours available by advance reservation
Educational opportunities and field trips available for grade school through university students
Contact the museum to make arrangements



Just north of Beltway 8, off I-45 between Airtex & Richey Rd.

415 Barren Springs Drive | Houston, TX 77090
281.876.3063 • contact@nmfh.org

 facebook.com/funeralmuseum  twitter.com/funeralmuseum  [@funeralmuseum](https://instagram.com/funeralmuseum)

The Museum, located at 415 Barren Springs Drive, was founded in 1992, following Robert L. Waltrip's goal of establishing an institution to educate the public and preserve the heritage of death care. The facility began by housing funeral service artifacts that were otherwise going to be discarded. The large museum holds 30,500 square feet of exhibit space, including 16 permanent exhibits.

Some of the first acquisitions were vintage hearses (see below).



1939 Superior -
LaSalle Mount Claire



1951 Superior -
Cadillac Landaulet

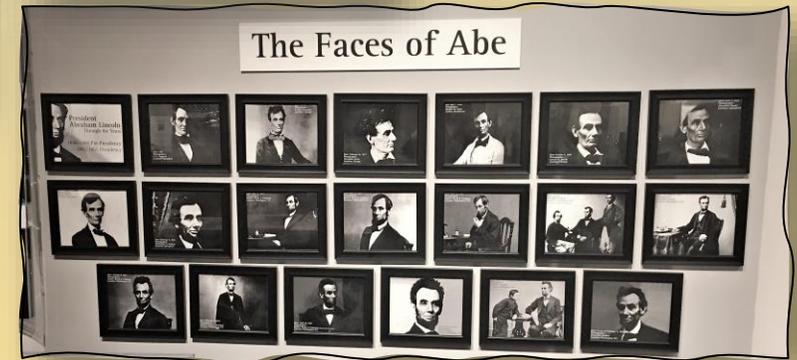
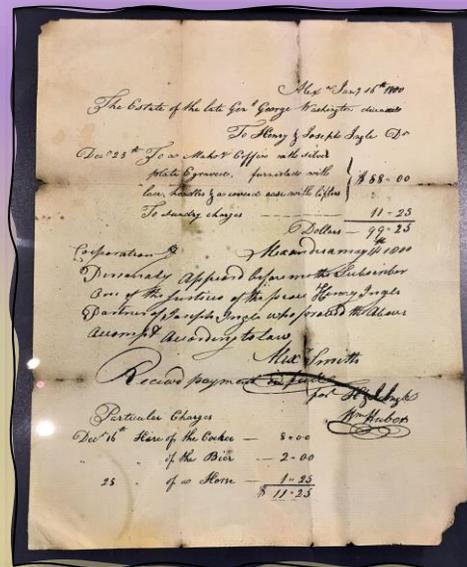
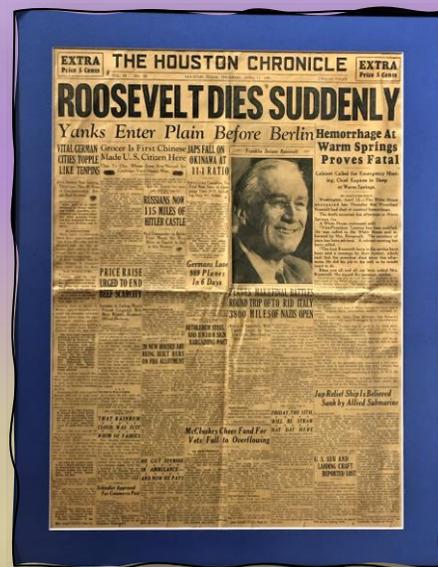
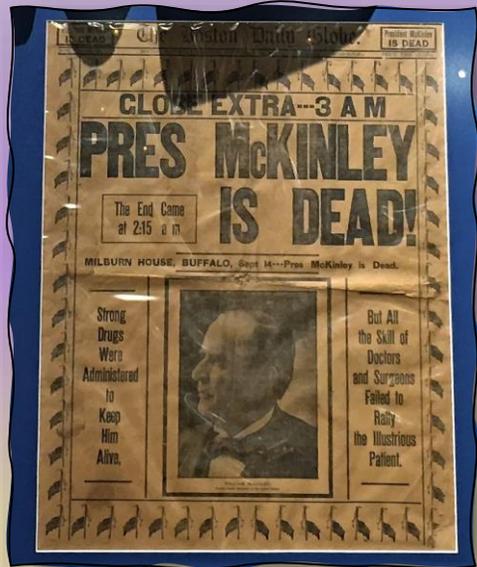


Far left – Susan examines an early-era carriage hearse.

On the right – an ornate Japanese hearse

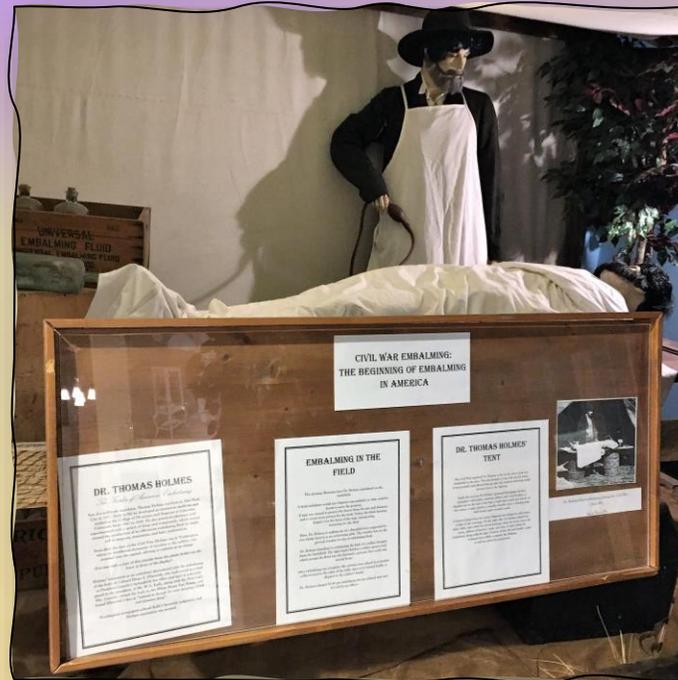
A section of the museum contains artifacts related to deaths of U.S. Presidents.

- An “Extra-3 a.m.” newspaper headline from the *Boston Daily Globe* declares the death (by assassination) on September 14, 1901, of William McKinley, 25th President of the United States.
- *The Houston Chronicle* headline from April 12, 1945, announces the death of Franklin D. Roosevelt, 32nd President of the United States.
- The funeral bill, dated January 16, 1800, for George Washington, 1st President of the United States, who died December 14, 1799.
- The embalming machine used for Harry S. Truman, 33rd President of the United States, who died December 26, 1972.
- Photographs of Abraham Lincoln, from earlier times as well as during his Presidency. He was the 16th President of the United States, assassinated April 15, 1865.
- A replica of the funeral train used to transport President Lincoln’s body across the country, with numerous stops in major cities at state capitals/city halls. The train left Washington on April 21, 1865, and traveled 1, 666 miles in 14 days to Springfield, Illinois.





The museum's very knowledgeable docent, Rob, discussed embalming, pointing out the method used by the early Egyptians, as well as the method used during the Civil War era. In some cases, embalming took place on the battlefield itself, following a battle. We learned that the process of embalming has changed very little over the years.



The museum has a section devoted to cremation. Many countries have always practiced cremation, while it is becoming a more common practice in our own country.

There are a variety of ways to donate to the museum, including the purchase of a niche for a loved one in the cremation section.

Depending on the culture and country, there are many ways to honor the dead.

Below are examples that include the Mexican holiday tradition of *Día de los Muertos*, or *Day of the Dead*, and in New Orleans, a jazz band, which typically leads a procession to and from a funeral.



Caskets can take many forms

- The casket on the far left was custom made for a couple whose child died. They wanted to be placed with the child in the same casket upon their own deaths. After the couple moved away, and years had passed, they changed their mind, so the casket made for three was never used.
- The casket in the same picture was dubbed the “money casket”. It was made in the 1970’s from the new see-through material, acrylic. It contained uncirculated coins and \$1,000 in bills when completed. Between the caskets is a display coat made of canvas money bags.
- Caskets can also be whimsical, like the examples in the middle picture below. Artist Kane Quaye of Ghana fashioned these metal creations.
- The wicker basket on the right is an example of a basket that could be used both to carry an amputee from a Civil War battlefield, or to carry the deceased. Our docent explained that the term “basket case” was derived from this practice.





CELEBRATING

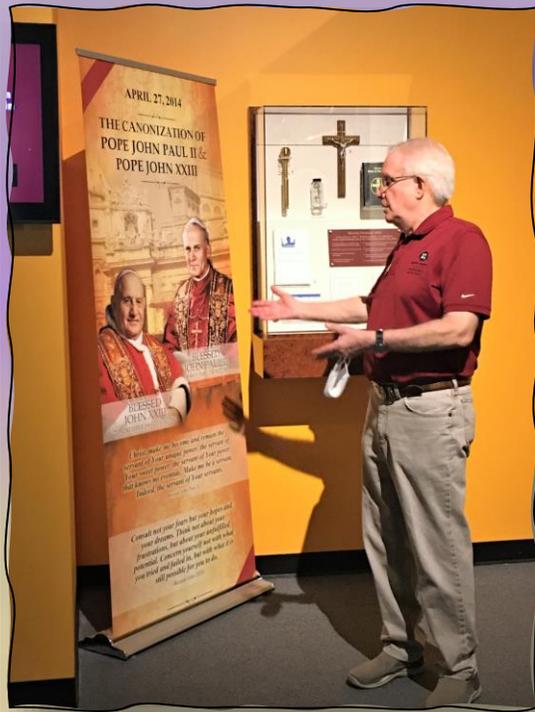
THE LIVES AND DEATHS OF THE POPES

The museum worked with the Vatican for more than three years to produce this permanent exhibit.

To the left, Rob discussed the canonization as saints of Pope John Paul II and Pope John Paul XXIII.

To the right is a replica of a deceased pope lying in repose on a bier, with Swiss guards in attendance. The Swiss guard uniforms worn in this display are authentic.

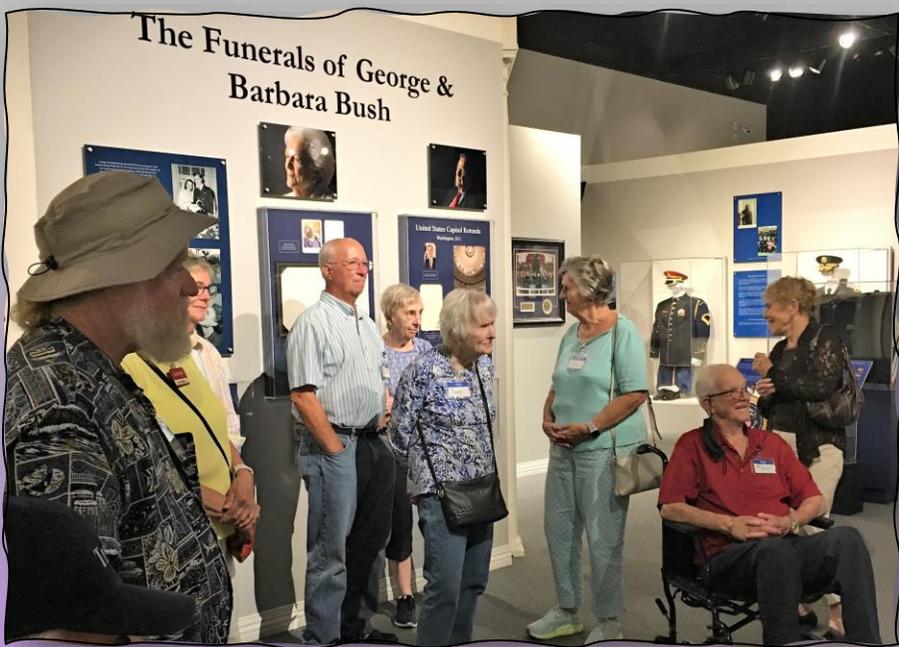
This walk-through exhibit helps recreate the many stages of preparation for the service and burial of a Pope.



THE FUNERAL

Helps confirm the reality and finality of death. Provides a climate for mourning and the expression of grief. Allows the sorrows of one to become the sorrows of many. Is one of the few times love is given and not expected in return. Is a vehicle for the community to pay its respects. Encourages the affirmation of religious faith. Is a declaration that a life has been lived as well as a sociological statement that a death has occurred.

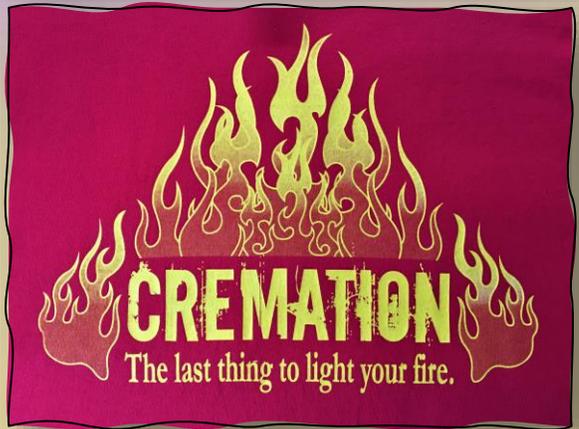
From: The Funeral From New and Egypt to Present Day America!



Don't forget: "Any day above ground is a good one."

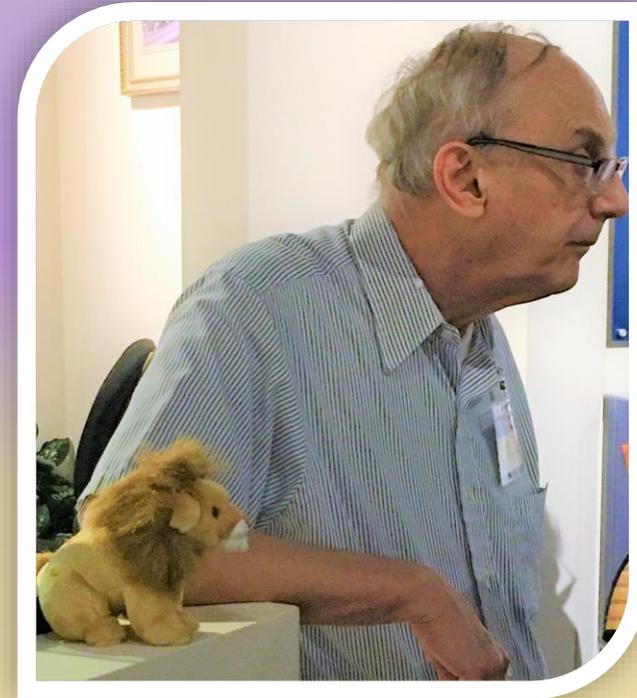
The trip to the Farmers Market and the Museum required a lot of walking, so most of us took a turn resting briefly on handy benches in the museum (like Sandra and Patsy, who are RIP).

Learn more about the museum at nmfh.org





Lasagna House III was our last stop of the day, where we enjoyed a nice lunch in our own private dining room!



A new addition to our trip was mascot **Little Leo**.

He will be joining us on future trips, accompanied by his master, President Ken.

Welcome, Little Leo!