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For Immediate Release

Selected Independent Funeral Homes Announces New Officers for 2022

LINCOLNSHIRE, IL — March 4, 2022 — [Selected Independent Funeral Homes](https://www.selectedfuneralhomes.org) has announced the election of new Board Officers to lead the world’s oldest association of independently-owned funeral homes. Selected’s Board of Directors elected the new Officers who will be officially installed during the [Annual Meeting](#) September 21-24 at the Grand Hyatt Washington in Washington, D.C.

Byron Calhoun of [Calhoun Funeral & Cremation Service](#) in Bedford Heights, OH will serve as the President. His firm was the first minority-owned firm to be invited to join Selected. Calhoun is the first African-American President in Selected’s history. “My father was very proud and excited to be extended membership to Selected [in 2001],” Byron recalled. “It was somewhat of a crowning achievement for him. He passed away in 2016. I know he would be overwhelmed and overjoyed that the association has allowed me to serve as its President.”

“I am very humbled and honored to be able to serve,” said Calhoun. “We have some challenges ahead of us, but we have some great people on the board who are problem solvers. We will be able to navigate these waters.”

Selected membership is a valuable asset to Calhoun. “Iron sharpens iron,” he stated. “Selected gives us a chance to fellowship and fraternize with other funeral service operators in our profession. It also provides an opportunity for each firm to benchmark the other.”

Calhoun is a second-generation funeral director. He graduated from Morehouse College, then attended Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science and earned his MBA at Baldwin Wallace University. His wife, Alison, is a principal scientist. They have a daughter who is studying Economics at Spelman College.

Al Asta of [Whitney & Murphy Funeral Home](#) in Phoenix, AZ will serve as Board Chair. His firm has been a Selected member since 2008. Of his new role, Asta says, “It’s exciting and it’s challenging. Over the past year and a half, Selected has been there to provide resources to families. The board has made some great decisions to move Selected forward. To move forward out of that transition into the next phase of growth is really important. We need to make sure we’re offering programs and resources so Selected can grow as an association.”

Asta studied mortuary science at Cyprus College in Orange County, CA. He has nearly 40 years of experience as a licensed funeral director. Besides Selected membership, Asta is also a member of the National Funeral Directors Association; and the Arizona Funeral, Cemetery and Cremation Association. With multiple association memberships, Asta is quick to highlight Selected's unique value. "I think it's so invaluable to use Selected's resources," said Asta. "As the pandemic hit, the volume of ideas exchanged by members through the Forum was incredible. It helped us launch our *Hugs from Home* program."

If there was one thing Asta would emphasize about Selected membership, he says, "It's the people. We're able to tap into brilliant minds to guide us in what to do. You don't get that anywhere else. They help you be better and better serve your families."

Asta looks forward to working with Calhoun as they lead Selected into the future.

The entire [Board of Directors](#) includes President Joshua Blake, Waco, TX, Group 5; Board Chair Robert Nunnaley, Carthage, NC, Group 3; Board Chair-Elect Al Asta, Phoenix, AZ, Group 6; President-Elect Byron Calhoun, Bedford Heights, OH, Group 2; Steve Pierce, Kansas City, MO, Group 4; John Kepner, Huntersville, NC, Group 3; John Keohane, Quincy, MA, Group 1; and Tom Antram, Albuquerque, NM, Group 5.

For more information on Selected, becoming or locating a member, visit Selected's website at selectedfuneralhomes.org or call 800-323-4219.

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About Selected Independent Funeral Homes: Selected Independent Funeral Homes (www.selectedfuneralhomes.org) delivers innovative and pertinent resources, solutions and ongoing support necessary for enduring excellence to its international network of independently owned death-care providers who aspire to be the very best in their profession. Members of Selected operate according to specific standards and best practices to provide the public with reliable, high-quality funeral services and funeral-related information.

Image included: Headshot of Byron Calhoun of [Calhoun Funeral & Cremation Service](#) and Al Asta of [Whitney & Murphy Funeral Home](#).