

RONAN TYNAN, NOTED IRISH TENOR, KEYNOTES NEW YORK STATE FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL MEETING; ASSOCIATION ELECTS 2006-2007 OFFICERS

Albany, NY -- August 25 -- Dr. Ronan Tynan, noted Irish tenor, stirred an audience of 400 funeral directors at their annual meeting with his personal story of triumph in the face of adversity, and his inspirational message about living life to the fullest. Even though he was born with a lower limb disability and had both legs amputated at age 20, Dr. Tynan competed in track and field and as an equestrian, winning 18 gold medals and setting 14 world records. He went on to become a doctor specializing in sports injuries, and entered the spotlight as a celebrated tenor, speaker, author and television personality.

In addition to hearing Dr. Tynan, the funeral service professionals attended seminars that addressed "Counseling the Family", "Aftercare", "Hospice and the Funeral Director's Role" and other sessions that were part of NYSFDA's continuing education program.. More than 50 exhibits showcased products and services that support the work of funeral directors in the state.

During the meeting which concluded this week in Saratoga Springs, members of the New York State Funeral Directors Association (NYSFDA) elected officers to serve for the 2006-2007 term: President John C. Sommese, owner and vice president of the Simonson Funeral Homes in Richmond Hill and Forest Hills; President-Elect Scott Anthony, owner of the Anthony Funeral Chapter in Webster; Vice President Gordon R. Terry, president and treasurer of the Houk-Johnston-Terry Funeral Home in Edmeston, and Secretary/Treasurer Richard Hazzard, owner and president of the Beecher Funeral Home in Brewster and Dwyer Funeral Home in Patterson.

Founded in 1889, NYSFDA's mission is to promote the highest standards of funeral service to the public and to enhance the environment in which its members operate. More than 800 member firms and 3000 licensed funeral directors who operate across the state belong to the New York State Funeral Directors Association. In addition to maintaining a Website at www.nysfda.org, NYSFDA also publishes a newspaper column "Transitions" and brochures which educate and inform consumers about end-of-life issues.