

QUEENS FUNERAL DIRECTOR JOHN C. SOMMESE ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE  
NYS FUNERAL DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION

**Albany, NY -- August 28 --** John C. Sommesse, owner and operator of the Simonson Funeral Homes in Richmond Hill and Forest Hills, was elected president of the New York State Funeral Directors Association (NYSFDA) at the organization's annual meeting which concluded last week in Saratoga Springs, New York. A licensed funeral director since 1962, Sommesse will serve for the 2006-2007 term. He also acts as a key spokesperson for NYSFDA on funeral service issues.

Sommese serves on the Executive Committee and board of directors of the New York State Funeral Directors Association. He is a member of the National Funeral Directors Association, and past president of the Metropolitan Funeral Directors Association and Lions International.

Active in community affairs, Sommesse is a member of the Lions Club, Richmond Hill Historical Society, and local parish council. He graduated from the American Academy of Funeral Service.

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](http://www.nysfda.org), NYSFDA also publishes a newspaper column "Transitions" and brochures which educate and inform consumers about end-of-life issues.

Editor's Note: For more information or to schedule an interview, please call Vera Nuspliger at 518-882-9816; cell 518-424-8719, Randy McCullough at 518-452-8230 or John Sommesse at 718-847-0304. John Sommesse' photo can be downloaded by visiting [www.nysfda.org](http://www.nysfda.org) and clicking on "For the Media".

Vera Converse Nuspliger  
Nuspliger Associates  
518-882-9816

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