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CBFH gives back to the community

CBFH took a day from the office to give back to their community by donating their time and resources to spruce up Oaklawn Cemetery. In fact, it's listed in the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.



Christian Benevolent Funeral Home •

201 N Hamilton St, Mobile, AL 36603 • www.christianbenevolent.com

Family • Service • Compassion



Are you prepared to say goodbye to your loved one with *Grace, Gratitude, and Love?*



Your family deserves the caring, committed, professional service provided by our team. CBFH is the **best decision on your worst day!**



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*Celebrating
91 Years*

**May
2019**

Christian Benevolent Funeral Home Celebrates 91 Years of Service to Community

The saying, the more things change, the more things stay the same is true when you think of Christian Benevolent Funeral Home (CBFH). In 1928 Mrs. Pearl Johnson was seen as a pioneer for being the first African American woman to own a business. In fact, her business, was one of few businesses in the Mobile area to provide funeral services to the African-American community.



She had a passion for serving her community and 91 years later that passion to

serve others during the most difficult times still prevails. CBFH continues the long-standing tradition of providing compassionate, dependable and superior service to those when they need it the most.

“We’re appreciative of the resounding support we receive from the community and we look forward to providing continued service to families along the Gulf Coast,” states Beverly Cooper, CBFH president.



Major General Gary Cooper (USMC. ret.) Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

The Mobile County Democratic Executive Committee (MCDEC) held their Second Annual Lifetime Achievement Awards on Friday May 3 at the Helena. Major General Gary Cooper (USMC. ret.), Senator Vivian Figures and Donald Langham were honored for their outstanding contributions to the community.

The MCDEC is the local arm of the Democratic Party. Members of the committee are elected to 4 year terms during the primary in gubernatorial election year. To learn more, visit www.mobiledems.org.

5 things you didn't know about Christian Benevolent

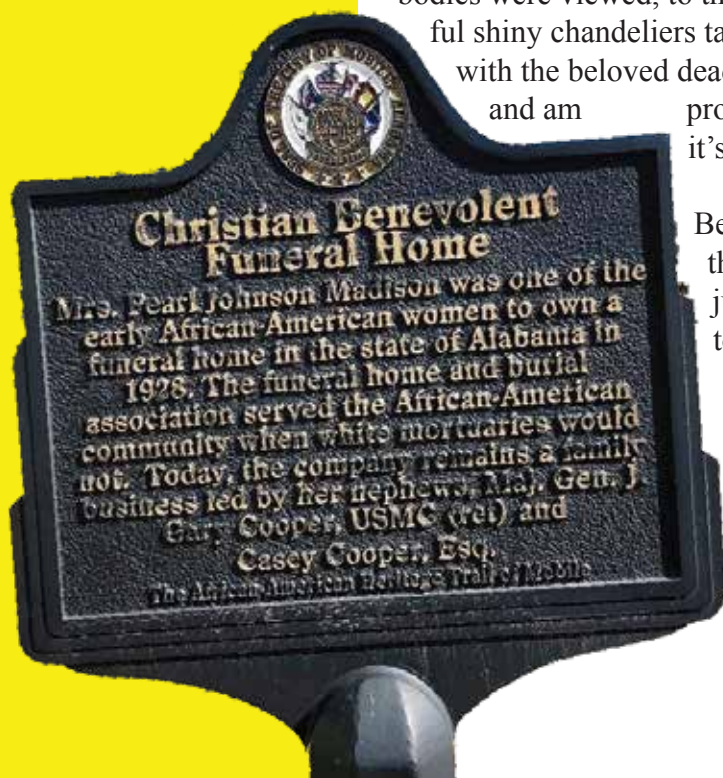
1.CBFH is one of oldest Funeral Homes in Alabama

2.CBFH has been family owned for 91 years

3. Featured attraction on the Dora Franklin Finley African-American Heritage Trail

4.CBFH was started by an African-American Woman

5.CBFH extended a loan in 1942 to Alabama State College Branch to purchase property which became Bishop State Community College



An Unforgettable Evening Tour

On the corner of Hamilton and Anthony Street, sits a lovely, large, well preserved white house, with a surrounding manicured lawn. A sign sits out front, that sharply says “Christian Benevolent Funeral Home, Inc., since 1928. “Yet the sign says it all. This place has been a pillar and a fixture in the community for a very long time! Christian Benevolent has been immovable because of God and this community. It’s been through the storms and the rain, and has survived! This funeral home is a stalwart institution and strong. It has been tested and tried, and still remains standing. This funeral home does not look like what’s it’s been through. It says, Christian Benevolent: loves working with you. And for you, in this community. Spread the word: this funeral home is saying we welcome you. We are as accessible to you and for you, us is possible.

How do I know? Because Beverly Cooper, president of Christian Benevolent, gave new life and meaning to the memories of two grown sister women, with an unforgettable tour of it, on March 8, 2019. A business or a home reflects the owners or managers. Christian Benevolent Funeral Home exudes respect, caring, concern, compassion, openness, approachability, and a welcome, because of the leaders of this institution.

Years ago, as children, my father Arthur Lee Dale, Sr., would bring us to his workplace, Christian Benevolent, because of his love and pride of it. He was an embalmer there. From the entrance of the gray hall, to the parlor where loved one’s bodies were viewed, to the glass door with the intricate designs of gold, with beautiful shiny chandeliers tastefully placed, it says that in spite of purpose: dealing with the beloved dead, Christian Benevolent is telling the living, we honor you, and am proud to serve you. This place is dressed up for you, because it’s yours. Our father made this place special and real to us.

Beautiful long memories bound. I’m so grateful that these memories aren’t the imaginings of a child. They are just as real and special to us. Thanks for an unforgettable tour!

Glenda Dale Gantt

Brewton, AL



Turn Back the Hands of Time

After many years, I set foot in Christian Benevolent Funeral Home in the spring of 2019. The fond and pleasant childhood memories began consuming the best of me through the smells, the sounds, and the sturdy structure. The upgrades, the artistic museum feel of art pieces, and artifacts were ever so conversationally adorning, yet the maintenance of the original architect remained intact.

There was something about the indelible scent, that I recalled when my Daddy, Arthur Lee Dale, Sr. would take the three of us to the funeral home. Strangely enough, I felt as though I was home again, if only for a brief while. The imbued aroma was as if an old friend was present, and the friend was wearing their usual fragrance. The uniqueness of their fragrance was just like the scent of the funeral home. It scented the trail which was to follow.

Some might just wonder. How could someone be so reflective, and so reminiscent of a place which seems so morbid to most? As we went down memory lane, parked were the fleet of hearses, and family cars, and caskets, and decorative offices, and ahh such a welcoming, and engaging feeling all over again.

Thank you seems so minuscule in comparison to the grandiose tour provided by Mrs. Beverly Cooper. Yet I thank you. I thank you for being so professional, yet so personable. The tour was so encompassing and poignant at times, until I found myself holding back, fighting back my real emotions.

The emotions continued unfolding as my oldest sister, Glenda, Mrs. Cooper, and I recalled so many countless (humorous ones included) stories of our dad, Mr. Dale as he was called. Christian Benevolent Funeral Home was clearly synonymous with Mr. Dale. To put it

There was the vivid recollection of how Dad would pull pranks on the three of us as children, pretending to be a ghost, covered in an all white sheet, making weird and eerie sounds. Then there was the claw style bath tub which doubled as an over-sized pot for the live plants. Let’s move on over to the red room with red light bulbs lit up like a festive holiday, with recorded organ music playing in the background! As we made our way to the second level, everything came back to me as fresh as the morning dew.

There used to be caskets of every size, in every corner, and every color in the casket room. I used to tell Daddy, I want the pretty little, pink one. Dad would ask, “Faye, do you really know what you are saying? Those beautiful caskets are for people who are no longer living.”

At that exact moment, I had a brief flashback of my late granddaughter, Lolili who lived four months, and four days, which I shared with Glenda, and Mrs. Cooper. At Lolili’s Celebration of Life Service, she was laid to rest in a beautiful, pink baby casket. Isn’t it funny how the connotations change, especially when it is close to home?

Two of the lifelong lessons Dad taught me to always remember were: (1) It is not the dead who can hurt you, but the living. (2) Be sure to take care of living business while you are living. Most white folks leave wills, and most black folks leave bills!

The countless, breathtaking takeaways of that day far exceeded my roller coaster moments of dampened feelings, and delight. The astounding beauty, the renewed relationships, the invaluable lessons of shared experiences, and the joys of that day still make the little girl inside of me wish for days when I could turn back the hands of time, more.

Mrs. Cooper, I can never repay you for such a rewarding, and rich experience. Nonetheless, I sure thank you for that incredibly, unbelievable day in time.

Respectfully Submitted,
A. Faye Calhoun
www.afayespeaker.com



frankly, Christian Benevolent, Mrs. Pearl J. Madison, and the Coopers were not only his living. Thankfully, they were a major part of his life! As a child, I could not help but wonder, is it all one person’s business, or are there three separate ones? Almost always, the three were mentioned in the same sentence, according to Dad.

I was so blessed to return to a place filled with laughter, contentment, enlightenment, education, peace, and solace. As each room was visited, each room held its own special motif of memories. How special it was to visit the calming, and serene converted Grief Library? Thank you Christian Benevolent Funeral Home for a lasting, living legacy. Excited about #Celebration 100!