



WOOSTER FUNERAL HOME

January's Business Spotlight

In the tearful and uncertain times surrounding a loved one's death, it's good to know that Wooster Funeral Home has the legacy and experience to meet the family's needs.

This dedication goes back 44 years. Wooster Funeral Home was originally bought by Charles and Brenda Wooster in Elmore City from the Vaughn family in 1980. They then built and added the Pauls Valley location at 1601 S. Chickasaw St. in 1985.

In 1987, their son Gary Wooster started his funeral directing and embalming career at the family funeral home. In 2021 Joe DeArman became the owner of Wooster Funeral Home, and in November 2022 Charles and Brenda stepped down, but they still take the time to meet with families and conduct services occasionally.

What distinguishes Wooster is the total amount of experience the three funeral director/embalmers have. Charles Wooster became licensed in 1963, Gary Wooster in 1987, and Joe DeArman in 1995. Plus in 2022 they added Courtney Maine to the funeral home as a Licensed Funeral Director and Embalmer Apprentice. She is expected to be licensed in July 2024, giving Wooster Funeral Home four funeral director/embalmers with a variety of knowledge and schooling practices to serve the community.

"What people don't know is what it takes to put together a well presented and prepared funeral," says Gary. "We have numerous checklists that we must follow from the first call where we go out all hours of the day and night, to different paperwork that has to be done with the state and even other states if we are transporting to or from another funeral home. We do first calls 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year; accommodate visitations; prepare memorial packages; contact doctor offices; the state and

other officials; and do it all with a humble heart because our motto is 'Our Family Dedicated To Serving Your Family.'"

Wooster Funeral Home rarely uses third party resources unless absolutely necessary because they own their own crematory for cremations and prep rooms for embalming. The funeral home also frequently refers people to various local businesses for their other needs relating to a funeral service -- whether that is floral arrangements, canvas photographs, or memorial headstones.

Pauls Valley location has a chapel that will seat about 200 people and state rooms for visitation purposes.

Other employees include Jo Hollinsworth (Accountant/Office Manager and Brenda Wooster's sister); Becky Wooster (Funeral Assistant and Gary's wife); LaVon Archer (Secretary); and Chad Gray, Chris Smith and Sebastian Owens (Funeral Assistants).

Wooster Funeral Home has been a Chamber member since 1991.