

PRODUCTS

COMPILED BY
TANYA KENEVICH



Photo: A glass keepsake from Memory Glass with cremated remains suspended inside.

Products On The Horizon

Memory Glass, located in Santa Barbara, Calif., has announced a product offering that gives funeral homes a new add-on for traditional funeral packages. Memory Glass's hand-blown glass keepsakes can now be infused with soil from a burial plot or sand, which no longer limits sales to accompanying cremations only.

A Memory Glass is a unique solid-glass keepsake that eternally preserves cremated remains, soil from a burial site or sand, which are suspended within the glass. Four customizable products are available, each hand-blown using high-quality crystal glass and colored glass from a selection of 16 shades. An extremely small amount of cremated remains, soil or sand is required, giving families the opportunity to create multiple Memory Glass products. When used with cremated remains, the family can still bury or scatter the remainder of the remains.

Established in 2002, Memory Glass began as a family business inspired by the loss of a close friend. Its mission is to provide a creative, affordable, alternative form of memorialization for those grieving the loss of family, friends or pets who are no longer with us. Memory Glass products are available in funeral homes and crematoriums in all 50 states.

Visit www.memoryglass.com for more information.



Cremation Safeguard, located in Tulsa, Okla., is a system that helps identify and track a deceased individual. It is composed of a Web-based system that helps collect, transfer and store identification information of the deceased for cremation.

This product does something that has never been done before, according to the company. Cremation Safeguard creates a chain of custody for the deceased for the entire cremation process; from the moment the body is taken into custody until the family receives the cremated remains. Cremation Safeguard forces the funeral home to properly identify the deceased. Unfortunately, not all funeral homes ID the deceased prior to cremation. Cremation Safeguard requires the family to witness the fingerprinting of the deceased, which ensures that the deceased is properly identified. Cremation Safeguard also creates accountability between the funeral and crematory and ties the two together, ensuring that the deceased is tracked through the entire process.

Cremation Safeguard has also developed an identifiable locking urn. Until now, urns were either labeled with

a sticker or ID tag from the crematory. The Cremation Safeguard locking urn, including its temporary urn, has a unique cable lock. The cable lock is imprinted with the unique Cremation Safeguard ID number of the deceased. This enables the urn to be identified at any time. Also, the Cremation Safeguard lock can only be removed by cutting it. This prevents any tampering of the contents by the crematory, the funeral home or the family.

For more information, visit www.cremationsafeguard.com or call 877-447-8040.



Live Forever Monuments, located in Sarasota, Fla., is a new company in the death-care industry that is providing a cremation product unlike any other.

John Ward's father, who was cremated in 2001, wanted nothing more than a simple memorial.

"My mother and I did our best to accommodate his wishes by picking a full-sized urn along with some keepsakes for friends and family," Ward said. "I asked a very simple question to the funeral director at the time we were finalizing his arrangements: 'Do you have anything to display my father's urn in?'"

Puzzled, the funeral director replied that he did not. "He went on to tell us

where most people placed the urn within the home; the mantle and so forth. We did not have a mantle or a suitable place to place my father's urn, and I remember that I was a bit upset that this industry did not offer such products for just these purposes," Ward said.

After talking to some families who had hired private artists to assist them in properly memorializing their loved ones, it became clear that there was no suitable option to showcase an urn in a dignified and aesthetically pleasing way in the home. Ward decided to turn his personal project into a new product line for the death-care industry.

The product can be customized to the family's wishes. It is made to look like a beautiful piece of furniture that coordinates well with the chosen home décor. It gives family members a constant and eternal display, showcasing images, personal effects, awards and the cherished items of their loved one. The company is also planning to create a product line specifically for pets.

For more information, visit www.liveforevermonuments.com or call 941-803-8500.



A service from the Meredith Corp. called **ONE Service** provides funeral homes across the country with the ability to use the power of local television to announce death notices

and funeral arrangements.

ONE Service was developed in response to the continued decline in newspaper circulation. As publishing schedules were reduced to only a few days a week, funeral directors were forced to do business differently.

For a small charge, participating television stations will run the deceased's name and photo on-air and post an obituary online. Lists of names of local residents who have passed away are broadcast during the weekday noon shows and weekend morning shows. Viewers are encouraged to visit a website to read the obituary and for more information about funeral services.

To learn more about ONE Service and when it will launch in your area, contact Jeff Trott, ONE Service general manager, at 515-284-2371 or Jeff.Trott@meredith.com.



Love Ashes, a Florida-based memorial jewelry company, is providing new and beautiful options to the death-care industry with affordable and beautiful jewelry and keepsakes that are made from cremated remains.

Love Ashes's owner and artist, Silvia Engel, was raised in Veracruz, Mexico, surrounded by a family of artists, including musicians, potters, bead-makers and painters. Engel eventually went into her own business making and

selling "wearable art," incorporating colors and textures from where she grew up in Mexico.

Although the company was founded in 2007, Love Ashes has been gaining attention with the rising rate of cremations nationwide and the unique look of the company's product. At the National Funeral Directors Association's International Convention and Expo, held in October in New Orleans, Love Ashes won the "Best of the Best New Exhibitor" award, which is exclusive to first-time exhibitors.

"All of our products are handcrafted," Engel said. "When most people hear 'handcrafted' they immediately think 'expensive.' However, with Love Ashes, that is not the case. We strive to provide high-quality products at an affordable price."



Memory Vessels is a mobile device that combines cremated remains or burial keepsakes with digital or electronic copies of videos, photos and voice recordings.

Available in a single chamber or dual chamber model, the Memory Vessel contains a 2 gigabyte USB flash that is compatible with all computers, laptops, digital frames and a host of other electronic media display devices.

Each hand-finished Memory Vessel is plated with palladium. As one of the three most popular metals used to make white gold alloys, the palladium finish on Memory Vessels will not tarnish since it does not react with oxygen at normal temperatures.

"With the increase in cremation and proliferation of digital media, Memory Vessel is a more practical solution for today's mobile society," said Blake Kelley, managing partner of Share Memories, the parent company of Memory Vessels. "Our digital keepsake jewelry provides the ability to transport and easily share life's most precious memories. This new class of keepsake jewelry also offers funeral directors an improved solution for distribution of tribute videos following the service."

For more information, e-mail info@memoryvessels.com or visit www.memoryvessels.com. •



Photo: The Love Ashes booth at the National Funeral Directors Association's International Convention & Expo in New Orleans.