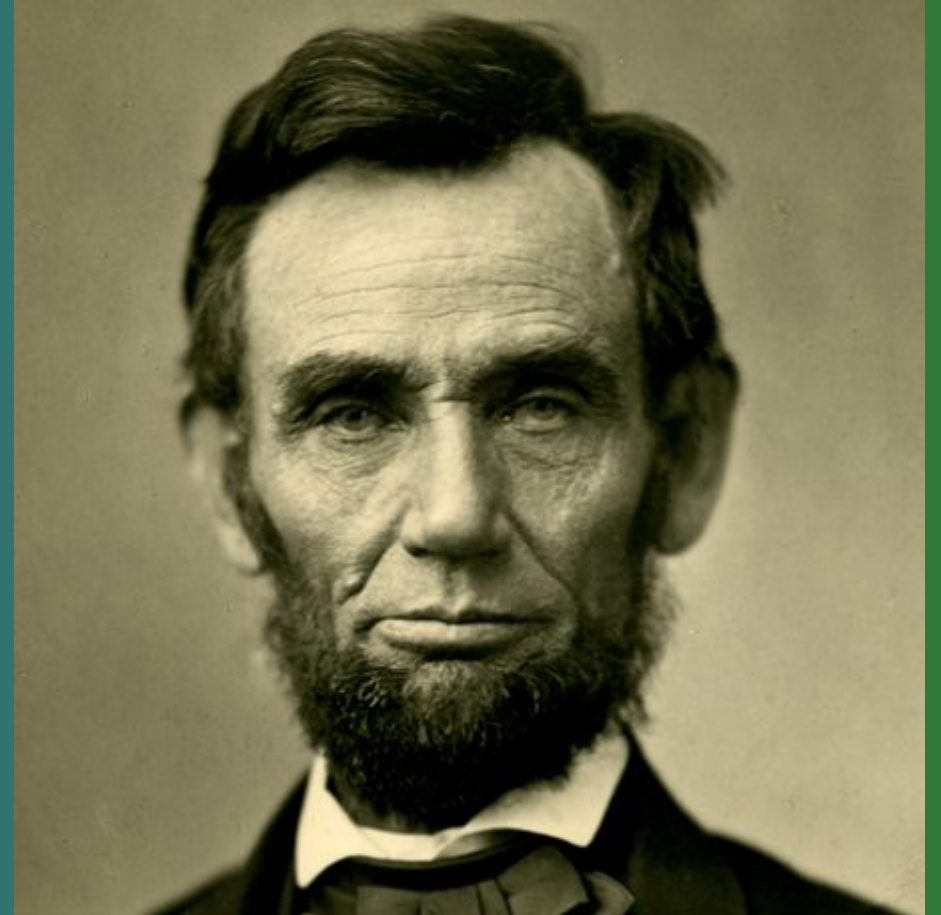




Green Burial Update

April 2024

Embalming's Embrace & the Funeral Industry



Conventional Burial

IN THE UNITED STATES, EACH YEAR WE BURY THE FOLLOWING:

- 827,060 gallons embalming fluid, including formaldehyde
- 180,544,000 pounds of steel in caskets
- 5,400,000 pounds of copper and bronze in caskets
- 30 million board feet of hardwood in caskets
- 3,272,000,000 pounds of reinforced concrete vaults
- 28,000,000 pounds of steel in vaults

Green Burial

“A way for caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact, that aids in the conservation of natural resources, reduction of carbon emissions, protection of worker health and restoration and/or preservation of habitat.”

–Green Burial Council
www.greenburialcouncil.org

- No toxic embalming
- Only biodegradable containers, caskets, shrouds, urns
- No vaults/grave liners
- Reduction of carbon emissions
- Sustainable land management/preservation & restoration of natural habitat
- Protection of worker health

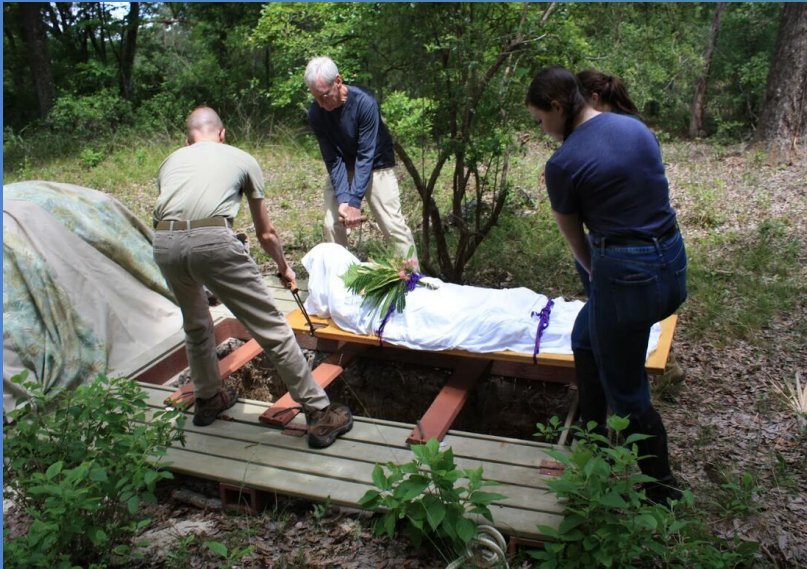
Green Burial Containers

Biodegradable Caskets, Urns & Shrouds



Green Cemeteries

- Enable natural decomposition
- Employ environmentally sustainable practices
- Encourage philosophy of stewardship
- Often support land trusts, conservation lands, recreational preserves
- Allow more family involvement



Eco Costs of Cremation

- Uses fossil fuels to power retorts
- Releases mercury/toxins into air & water
- Byproduct emissions cause acid rain
- Radiopharmaceutical contamination
- Final product = calcium phosphate and sodium with an extremely high pH (11.8)
(200-2000x what plants can tolerate)



Green “Forever Homes” - Land



Green “Forever Homes” - Sea



Alkaline Hydrolysis

Aquamation, Water Cremation, Bio-Cremation, Flameless Cremation

- Water instead of fire
- 90+% energy savings; 1/10th fire cremation's carbon footprint
- No greenhouse gas emissions
- No fossil fuel burning
- No removal of pacemaker batteries; easy to recycle implants
- 20% more ash remains
- No casket/container required
- Compatible with embalming

Alkaline Hydrolysis



Alkaline Hydrolysis Legal States (28)

Alabama

Idaho*

Nevada

Virginia*

Arizona*

Illinois

North Carolina

Washington

California

Kansas*

North Dakota*

West Virginia*

Colorado*

Maine

Oklahoma

Wyoming*

Connecticut

Maryland*

Oregon

Florida

Michigan

Tennessee*

-Repealed in NH '08

Georgia

Minnesota

Utah

Hawaii*

Missouri

Vermont

*Not Currently Available



Luke Perry
1966-2019



Archbishop Desmond Tutu
1931 - 2021

Natural Organic Reduction

Terramation, Human Composting

Human Remains → Soil

- Saves metric ton of carbon per person
- Body cradled with organic 'bedding' + microbes; moisture/heat controlled vessel
- 45 days -12 weeks (vessel → aeration bin)
- 1 Cubic Yard Soil Amendment (500-1,000 lbs)
- Incompatible with embalming
- Easy implant recycling
- 7 States: Washington, Colorado, Oregon, Vermont, California, New York, Nevada
- 4 Providers; recompose.life

Natural Organic Reduction



Green(er) Modifications

- No embalming
- Eco-friendly containers (burial/cremation)
- Burial outfit of natural fibers
- Eco-friendly memorial momentos
- Hearse/vehicles
- Energy-efficient crematorium
- Carbon offset fund/global warming initiative
- Organic food at the wake/memorial/repast/shiva
- Home Funeral/Burial (www.homefuneralalliance.org)

Legacy



*“We didn’t inherit the Earth from our
ancestors, we borrow it from our children”*

— Native American Proverb

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GREAT GOODBYES

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