

Michael Hamlar, President and Owner of Hamlar-Curtis Funeral Home & Crematory, serves families across Roanoke and Rocky Mount, Virginia, continuing a proud family legacy of business leadership, community service, and entrepreneurship. Deeply influenced by generations before him, Michael is committed to uplifting his community while expanding innovative business ventures.

A product of the Roanoke County Public School System, Michael has built a distinguished record of civic and professional leadership. He is the Past President and former Chairman of the Board of the Virginia Morticians Association, Inc., and was honored as Western District Funeral Director of the Year. His public service includes serving on Governor-Elect Ralph Northam's Transition Team and the Secure Commonwealth Panel focused on Homeland Security. He also served as Co-Chair of Virginia's African-Americans for Biden/Harris.

Michael's commitment to community engagement is reflected in his extensive board service, including the Virginia Military Institute Board of Visitors, Visit Virginia's Blue Ridge, Family Service of Roanoke, the Roanoke Symphony Orchestra, and the Board of Directors for Noah Christian Academy. He has also contributed to regional economic and policy discussions through his work on the Legislative Advocacy Committee with the Roanoke Regional Chamber of Commerce. At his church, Bethlehem Baptist, he serves as a Trustee and youth leader, emphasizing his dedication to mentorship and faith-based leadership.

An accomplished entrepreneur, Michael co-founded Hamlar Enterprises in 2009 with his wife, Katina Casey Hamlar, focusing on business brokerage, mergers, acquisitions, and valuations. In 2012, they expanded into real estate through Hamlar Properties, where Michael serves as President, and further extended their development footprint with Franklin Road Junction. His business leadership has earned him recognition as one of *The Blue Ridge Journal's* "Top 20 Leaders Under 40."

Michael is also the creator and host of the television segment "*The New Virginia Economy with Mike Hamlar*," where he highlighted business innovation and economic development across the region. Continuing to grow his enterprise, he opened a second Hamlar-Curtis location in Rocky Mount in 2022 and added a crematory to the Roanoke location. In Fall 2023, he launched the Lawrence Hamlar Event Center, providing a premier space for community gatherings and celebrations. In 2024, he expanded further with the opening of Hamlar Pet Funeral Home & Crematory in Roanoke.

Committed to education and legacy-building, Michael has established endowments at Wake Forest University, Virginia State University, and Norfolk State University. He also founded the Hamlar Family Foundation, further demonstrating his dedication to philanthropy and generational impact.

Michael earned his bachelor's degree from Wake Forest University, where he was a Seattle Bowl champion with the Demon Deacons football team. He also holds an associate degree in mortuary science from John Tyler Community College, an MBA from Liberty University, and

completed doctoral coursework toward a Doctorate in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance from Walden University. He has additionally received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Bethlehem Bible College.

A proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Michael prioritizes his faith, family, and service above all. He is married to Katina Casey Hamlar, and together they have three children: Simone, Michal, and Micah.