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KIDWELL-GARBER

INC.



www.kidwellgarber.com

Kidwell-Garber
Funeral Homes

Kidwell Granite Works

Kidwell-Garber
Funeral Plans, Inc.

Garber Memorial
Estates, Inc.

Kidwell-Garber is not only brick and mortar, but a legacy of service that is steeped in commitment, trust, compassion and celebration of life. For more than 182 years, Kidwell-Garber has had the opportunity to serve the families of Versailles and surrounding communities, and the west side of the Lake of the Ozarks. As the second-oldest funeral home in the state of Missouri and the oldest business in Morgan County, that legacy continues today.

In 1844, William Kidwell, Sr. founded Kidwell Funeral Home and Kidwell Monument Company with an entrepreneurial spirit and goal to serve his community. He and his descendants accomplished that goal with a contagious commitment to civic duty and the needs of their client families. Upon Bill Kidwell's death, his wishes were to divide his company among his dedicated group of employees. The following years led Raymond and Susanna Garber to purchase all outstanding stock from Bill's successors, gaining full ownership in the 1970s. With the utmost respect for the Kidwell family before them, the Garber name was added to follow the company founders, creating Kidwell-Garber, Inc.

Raymond and Susanna not only kept the Kidwell family's legacy alive, they expanded it. Focusing solely on funeral service and granite products, they sold the Wilbert Vault franchise, which continues to operate in the area under separate ownership. In 1979, they purchased a tract of property in Laurie, Missouri to serve the growing west side of the Lake of the Ozarks. On that property, the Kidwell-Garber Laurie/Sunrise Beach Chapel was built. The East, adjacent portion of the property was developed as Garber Memorial Estates, a privately held cemetery for the residents of Lake West communities. Over the years, The Garber family has continued to demonstrate commitment to their communities by continually improving services and facilities for the families they serve.

The Garber family continues to hold ownership of Kidwell-Garber, Inc., perpetuating the legacy that has been built for over a century and a half. Following Raymond and Susanna's leadership, their son, Gary Garber led the company for over 30 years as president of Kidwell-Garber, Inc. Being a family operation, their son-in-law, Larry Akin, also served the company for over 30 years as manager of the granite division, Kidwell Granite Works. In 2009, after a thirty-nine year teaching tenure, Ray and Susanna's daughter and son-in-law, Larry and Sue Garber Akin, acquired all outstanding stock to become sole owners of Kidwell-Garber, Inc. Larry passed away in 2011, leaving his legacy within the granite division and his surviving family. Sue continues to guide Kidwell-Garber with her daughter, Suzanne Akin Hall and her son, Landon Akin.

Kidwell-Garber, Inc. is the parent of Kidwell-Garber Funeral Homes, Kidwell Granite Works, Garber Memorial Estates and Kidwell-Garber Funeral Plans. Unique to Kidwell-Garber is the ability to provide all products and services related to an aftercare need. A family is allowed the opportunity to seamlessly create a custom funeral service, design a personalized granite memorial, choose burial plots and/or pre-plan funeral arrangements – assisted by our staff with full knowledge of the family's wishes. Options are as diverse as the families served, ranging from a traditional chapel service to a memorial gathering on a dock at sunset. For perpetual memory in stone, granite memorials can be fully customized and tailored to reflect the architecture of a life. It's unique. Kidwell-Garber client-families receive full attention from the provider/manufacture.

At Kidwell-Garber: Expectations are consistently met. Service is second to none. Product satisfaction is paramount.



Morgan County Historical Society and Museum

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