



MEDIA CONTACT

Marissa Coulon, LFDA Account Manager
info@LFDAnet.org | LFDAnet.org | 225-767-7640
18153 E. Petroleum Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70809

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2026

LFDA Honors Gerald W. Melancon for 50 Years of Service to the Funeral Profession

Baton Rouge, LA - The Louisiana Funeral Directors Association (LFDA) is proud to recognize Gerald W. Melancon as a 2026 recipient of the LFDA 50 Years of Service Award. This award honors funeral service professionals who have dedicated five decades to serving families, strengthening their communities, and advancing the funeral profession in Louisiana.

Melancon, President and Chairman of the Board of Melancon Funeral Home, Melancon Life Insurance Co., Melancon Mutual Burial Association, and Evangeline Memorial Gardens, has devoted his life and career to funeral service. Growing up above his father's family owned funeral home in Southwest Louisiana, Melancon was surrounded by the profession from an early age and dreamed of becoming a third generation funeral director.

That dream became a reality in 1975, following his graduation from Commonwealth College of Mortuary Science in Houston. Since completing his internship, Melancon has remained actively involved in the daily operations of his family businesses, continuing to serve families with dedication, professionalism, and care.

Under his leadership, the Melancon family businesses have grown to include Evangeline Memorial Gardens, expanded funeral home operations in Grand Coteau and Opelousas, established facilities in Arnaudville and Carencro, and a chapel and office facility in Carencro. This growth helped establish one of the first combination funeral home and cemetery operations in Southwest Louisiana.

Throughout his career, Melancon has been a committed leader within the funeral, cemetery, and insurance professions. He is a member of the National Funeral Directors Association, Louisiana Funeral Directors Association, Southwest Louisiana Funeral Directors Association, and the International Cemetery, Cremation, and Funeral Association. He has also served as Past President of the Louisiana Cemetery Association, Past President of the Louisiana Insurers Conference, and has been deeply involved in legislative efforts impacting the funeral, insurance, and cemetery industries.

In 1998, Melancon was appointed to the Louisiana Cemetery Board, where he has provided decades of service and leadership, including serving as Chairman beginning in 2009. His long standing commitment to professional standards and public service reflects the values at the heart of the LFDA 50 Years of Service Award.

"Gerald Melancon represents the very best of Louisiana funeral service," said Kathleen O'Regan, Executive Director of LFDA. "His 50 years of service reflect not only professional excellence, but also deep devotion to families, community, and the future of our profession."

LFDA congratulates Gerald W. Melancon on this remarkable milestone and thanks him for his enduring contributions to funeral service throughout Louisiana.

For more information about LFDA awards and programs, visit www.lfdaweb.org.

About LFDA

The Louisiana Funeral Directors Association is a statewide professional trade association made up of members throughout the State of Louisiana. The Louisiana Funeral Directors Association promotes integrity in the funeral service industry through education, legislation, networking and communications. For more information, visit www.lfdaweb.org.