

Missouri State Funeral Directors Hold 59th Annual State Convention

By Jerry Walker

The elegant, newly constructed Hilton Gardens Inn Hotel located in Kansas City, Kas., was the scene of the 59th annual convention of the Missouri State Funeral Directors and Embalmers Association (MSFDEA).

The affair was held from Friday, May 16 until Sunday May 18.

Friday night was a social gathering of vendors and funeral home owners.

Saturday morning starting at 8 a.m., numerous business and industry seminars were held and all were well attended.

Saturday evening starting at 6:30 p.m., an awards dinner was held in the Jack Reardon Center adjacent to the hotel.

The master of ceremony for the affair was Duane E. Harvey, of the Duane E. Harvey Funeral chapels.

The assembled members and guests were welcomed by Rev. Virgil Brown, Parliamentarian for the MFSDEA.

Ms. Niki Randolph provided musical entertainment with two virtuoso performances on an electric violin.

Ms. Mary L. Martin-McCree, state President of the MSFDEA, also welcomed the assembled members and guests after receiving a standing ovation.

A sumptuous buffet dinner was served after the invocation was given by Rev. John Modest Miles, pastor of the Morning Star Baptist church.

Elder L.F. Thuston, pastor of the Boone Tabernacle Church of God In Christ, gave the keynote address.

Ms. McCree then conducted the presentation of the awards and the memoriam portion of the program.



MISSOURI STATE FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS ASSOCIATION COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS . . . The MFSDEA presented eight community service awards and two lifetime awards at its 59th Annual Convention Banquet held on Saturday, May 17, at the Jack Reardon Convention Center adjacent to the newly constructed Hilton Gardens Inn Hotel, located in downtown Kansas City, Kas. Shown left to right are, Troy Nash, Wesley Fields, Mary L. Martin-McCree, State President; Donna F. Stewart, Managing Editor of THE CALL; Elder L.F. Thuston, key note speaker; Otto Dandridge, Norma Mendes, Inell Hunter, Thomas E. May of the H. T. May and Son Funeral Home and Duane E. Harvey of the Duane Harvey Funeral Chapels. Not shown are award recipients Sandra McFadden-Weaver and Linda Jones, Master Sgt. Ellsworth H. Crosby, Jr., and I. J. Manilove. -- CALL Photo by Rex Purefoy

The MSFDEA presented community service awards to eight individuals: Donna F. Stewart, Managing Editor of the **Kansas City CALL**; Wesley O. Fields, Inell Hunter, Sandra McFadden-Weaver, Troy Nash, Norma McCloud Mendes, and Linda Jones, and Elder Lemuel F. Thuston.

Lifetime awards were presented to I. J. Manlove and Otto Dandridge.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT MISSOURI STATE FUNERAL DIRECTORS AND EMBALMERS ASSOCIATION 59TH ANNUAL CONVENTION . . . Elder L.F. Thuston, Pastor of the Boone Tabernacle Church of God In Christ, gave the keynote address at the 59th Annual MFSDEA convention held May 16 through May 18 at the Hilton Gardens Inn hotel located in Kansas City, Kas. -- CALL photo by Rex Purefoy