



# A Call That He Will Never Forget

BY JENNIFER WEBB

***TYLER WATCHED MR. BOB POWELL AS THE NEWLY WIDOWED MOTHER APPROACHED THE COUNTER. SHE DIDN'T HAVE MUCH, AND IT WAS CHRISTMAS.***

Her children clustered around her as she stopped. She placed the \$100 bill on the counter, her monthly payment towards her late husband's funeral expenses. Mr. Powell filled out the receipt and handed it to her, then slid the \$100 bill back across the counter to her.

"I've got this month's payment," he told her. "Get those kids some Christmas with this."

As she walked out, Tyler looked at his boss and mentor and thought, "I want to do business like that." The world seemed just a little brighter, and the love in action that he had just witnessed made his heart glow. It was loving like Jesus loved, right before his eyes.

Tyler had worked around a funeral home since he was nine. By age 14, he was digging graves, engraving and placing monuments, washing cars, mowing grass, and generally doing whatever was needed.

***"I saw the old funeral directors in town and what a help they were to the community and to grieving families. I saw the respect they had in town and the care they gave the community."***

-TYLER HYATT, OWNER,  
POWELL FUNERAL HOME

He received his funeral director license in 1993 and his embalmer license in 1994. He started working for Mr. Powell in 1994. He also served the community as deputy coroner and chief coroner for many years. While many would cringe at the thought of such a job, he viewed it as a ministry and an opportunity to be there for people in their darkest hours.

One icy night he got a call that he will never forget—one that changed his life. There had been an accident on the interstate with

a wrecker. His friend, Delbert, worked with his parents at Brooks Garage and Towing. The whole way there, he wondered, "Is it him? Lord, please don't let it be him."

It was. He pulled up to find Delbert's dad standing over him, unwilling to leave his son's body after a vehicle lost control on the ice and hit him.

This was the last thing that Tyler could do for his friend. After the immediate needs were taken care of at the funeral home, Tyler's next thought was, "I need to go check on Jada and the kids!"

Jada was home with their three teen kids. She and Delbert had gone on a drive to celebrate their 21st wedding anniversary just hours before. She remembers him driving and looking over at her, saying, "I love you." She ran back to kiss him one more time as they parted, looking deep into his eyes and saying, "I love you." His cautions for her to be careful on the drive home since the weather was bad, still echoing in her ears.

Then the call came. She remembers one kid bursting out into uncontrollable tears and another one running out the door to his car. She wanted to crumple, but she felt the Lord come up behind her and slide his arm around her, holding her up. "Jada, I've got Delbert. He's with me now." She heard and felt a small, but strong still voice say, "Jada." This time it was Delbert's voice, although not audible, saying, "Take care of our kids." Then she felt an overwhelming sense of peace that started from the top of her head, spreading through her whole body.

The next few days were tough, but as funeral director for Delbert's funeral, Tyler made it easier. It was one of the most personalized funerals Tyler had ever done — deer and duck mounts, tons of pictures, minnow buckets (a place to leave cards with favorite memories). Jada had told him that she wanted it to be something the kids could walk into and it be comforting and "feel" like their Dad.

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Tyler and Mike Hancock and Jim Newman at the funeral home booth at Get Down Downtown

***"You only have one opportunity to celebrate someone's life and that celebration needs to be as unique as the person was."***

- TYLER HYATT, OWNER,  
POWELL FUNERAL HOME

Tyler's family and Delbert and Jada's had always been close. There was no where else Tyler wanted to be than right here, offering all the comfort and support that he could. That's what he did with all his families.

He was there to support them and tend to all the little details so they didn't have to worry about it. If he could offer a grieving family comfort and lessen their load, he felt like he was fulfilling God's purpose for his life.

A few years later, he had gone through a divorce, and he saw Jada in the Little Debbie section of the grocery store. A "How have you been?" conversation turned into talking much more, and God blessed a new love to spring from the ashes of loss.

They were married, and two families merged into one. The six kids, Bethany, Branson, Peyton, Meredith, Britain, and Cami, who had always known each other, grew closer, and they leaned on each other as siblings.

***"Now we're like the Brady Bunch with six kids and four funeral homes, four amazing grandchildren, and one on the way."***

- JADA BROOKS-HYATT, OWNER,  
POWELL FUNERAL HOME



Tyler continued his work at Powell Funeral Home, and Jada, who had always worked with Delbert, joined Tyler. As the kids got older and saw more of what their dad did, they better understood that all the missed birthdays and ball games were because he needed to be there to support others. Two of their daughters work with them. Britain manages the office at the Searcy location, and Meredith is a licensed funeral director, carrying on the family tradition.

***"This isn't just a job. I feel like I'm helping other people through their hard times like I went through. I couldn't have done it without everyone. It's a blessing to be able to help everyone. I feel like God is using me, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to be a blessing to other people."***

- JADA BROOKS-HYATT, OWNER,  
POWELL FUNERAL HOME

As second generation owner, Mr. David Powell's health began to decline, and he started having serious talks with Tyler and Jada. He wanted someone to carry





on the family funeral home business who would do it out of love for the community and view it as an opportunity to help people, as he did. Tyler and Jada purchased three Powell Funeral Home locations in Bald Knob, Searcy, and Augusta from him in 2021. Then, in 2022 the owners of Bradford Memorial Funeral Home approached them, and they bought that location as well, renaming it Powell Funeral Home of Bradford.

Tyler, Jada, and their family are strongly committed to helping people through what is one of the hardest times in their lives — the loss of a loved one. They have never turned anyone away because of money, and they have been voted “Best of the Best” by the Daily Citizen readers for the past 16 years.

Tyler and Jada are determined to keep it a family funeral home business — one where the funeral director is not paid on commissions based on sales or fancy funeral packages they sell.

*“We are in the relationship business. We love what we do, and we love taking care of people”*

- TYLER HYATT, OWNER,  
POWELL FUNERAL HOME

They have plans to construct a crematory in the next few years so that a loved one never leaves their care. They have resources for counseling services and grief support as well. They are grateful for each family that walks in the door, whether to preplan services, make arrangements for a loved one who has passed, or just to ask questions or have a cup of coffee. They know that it’s an honor to be trusted during a trying time and are grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the healing.

You can learn more at [powellfuneralhome.net](http://powellfuneralhome.net), calling (501) 268-7220, or dropping by one of their locations in Searcy, Bald Knob, Bradford, or Augusta. ■



Jada and staff members Rodney Westmoreland and Rhonda Miller at Get Down Downtown



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