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**McMinn County Living Heritage Museum Experience Educational  
Mobile Museum of Funeral Traditions**

**February 15, 2010-Athens-**What do a President's rider-less horse saddle, Rosa Park's quiet act of defiance, and Abraham Lincoln's casket have in common? That's what students, local residents and funeral professionals will soon discover from an exhibit featuring a collection of funeral objects and historical depiction of funeral customs in a traveling museum.

*Reflections: The American Funeral* examines funeral traditions and their role in helping the living achieve closure. Spread out across 1,000 sq. ft., thoughtful display areas reveal how we mourn the dead. Of special note is the Lincoln exhibit, featuring a reproduction of Lincoln's casket and tracing the near 3-week funeral procession. Scholars cite Lincoln's 1865 funeral as the birth of today's modern funeral service. Other moving exhibits include "Arlington National Cemetery," which honors our country's veterans and the more than three million Americans buried in our national cemeteries. "Glory, Glory Hallelujah" showcases President John F. Kennedy's rider-less horse – empty boots reversed in the saddle – trotting briskly in his funeral procession and Rosa Parks, who was the first woman to lie in state at the Capitol Rotunda.

This exhibit will be on display at the McMinn County Living Heritage Museum February 25, 26 & 27 from 10 am – 5pm. Admission is free.

From the cross-country funeral procession for Abraham Lincoln to the national outpouring of grief for Elvis Presley, America has a rich history of mourning the dead. *Reflections: The American Funeral* explores these traditions, beginning with Native American burial mounds and ending with the diverse rituals practiced across the country today. Produced by Michigan-based MRA, it's earning high praise from everyone who experiences it.

"There are intriguing stories of funeral practices throughout the centuries and this exhibit educates people on those stories and enables them to connect to the universal human experience of death," says Diane Hutsell, Living Heritage Museum Executive Director. "The displays on Arlington and fallen public safety officers move people to tears."

*Reflections: The American Funeral* has been touring across the United States since Summer 2008, stopping at state capitols, universities, veteran events, and mortuary schools, funeral homes and industry conventions. During January 2009 Inauguration celebrations, both Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C., and Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine in Baltimore, MD, hosted it.

*Reflections* receives support from the National Funeral Directors Association (NFDA); the American Board of Funeral Service Education (ABFSE); the Academy of Professional Funeral Service Practice (APFSP); Federated Funeral Directors of America (FFDA); Get-Etched, a

manufacturer of distinctive, custom memorial products; and Kates-Boylston Publications, the parent company of *American Funeral Director* magazine, a leading independent trade magazine for funeral directors and other funeral service professionals.

Sponsorship and appearance inquiries are welcome and can be submitted to [info@gomra.com](mailto:info@gomra.com) or 586.596.7937. High resolution images available upon request.

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