

NCBVA NEWSLETTER

NATIONAL CONCRETE BURIAL VAULT ASSOCIATION | JANUARY 2024

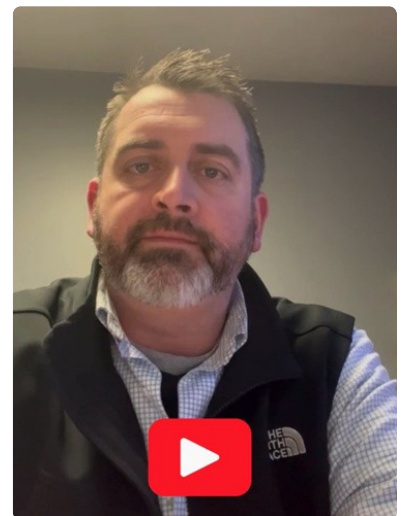


NCBVA President Kyle York Shares His Vision & Goals for the Organization

Happy New Year to all! I wish you all a year filled with growth, prosperity, and increasing opportunity. As we head into my first year as president, I am honored to serve the NCBVA to help set the course for the burial vault industry and am humbled to lead an association with such a rich history. **Our association, initially chartered in 1930, conducted the first annual meeting in 1929 in Columbus, Ohio.** I feel a deep sense of responsibility to maintain the longevity of the association and leave the NCBVA in a better place when I exit as president.

Over the next two years of my presidency, I look forward to sharing my vision and goals for the NCBVA. Some of the most important things our board will be focusing on is:

- improving communication among our association,
- helping lead the burial vault industry technologically, and



- achieving financial health and long-term sustainability within the organization.

Problem solving is a critical skill for all vault companies, and I look forward to tackling some of the same problems our association has handled for the last 100 years.

I am confident 2024 holds bright promise and potential for us to further elevate our organization by having a meaningful impact on our industry. **Together, we can continue to chart a course that ensures sustainable growth, embraces change, and fulfills our responsibilities to the burial vault community.** With each opportunity, we can advance the purpose and objective of our organization.

Purpose & Objective of NCBVA

The **Purpose** of National Concrete Burial Vault Association is to provide a unified voice for the concrete burial vault industry, regardless of product affiliation, brand recognition or location.

The **Objective** of National Concrete Burial Vault Association is to secure cooperative action of concrete burial vault manufacturers or wholesale distributors for the purpose of developing high standards of quality; promote the use of concrete burial vaults by approved advertising and ethical sales methods; encourage fair trade practices among its members; and engage in research and educational activities that will contribute to the growth and improvement of the concrete burial vault industry.

In closing, may the new year bring you and your loved ones an abundance of joy, good health, and prosperity. I eagerly await the opportunities that lie ahead and look forward to another year of shared achievements and collective success.

With Warm Regards,
Kyle York

President, National Concrete Burial Vault Association
Wimmer Manufacturing

Upcoming Legal Call with Poul Lemasters



The Current State of Protecting Information

Join us for the next legal call on **Wednesday, February 21 at 2:00pm ET** with NCBVA legal counsel Poul Lemasters on "The Current State of Protecting Information." There is no charge to join the call, but registration is required. [Click here to register.](#)

Did you miss the last legal call on Breaks and Vacations?

NCBVA members have access to the recordings of the legal calls. Listen to "Breaks and Vacations in the Workplace" through the [members only page](#). [Email us](#) if you need access.

Register for Wednesday, 2/21 call at 2pm ET

No charge to attend but advance registration is required. The call will be conducted on Zoom.

The Importance of a Unified Voice

We are proud of being a unified voice for the burial vault industry regardless of product affiliation, brand recognition, or location. Our non-profit organization represents groups that provide 90% of all outer burial receptacles interred in the US and Canada. We are a network of like-minded companies who share the same values and experiences.

Plant Certifications

When did one of our experienced concrete specialists last visit your vault plant? [View the directory to see if your plant is up to date with certification.](#)

Read [complete details](#) or contact info@ncbva.org to schedule a certification visit. NCBVA Certification is valid for 5 years. As a reminder, if you are a Doric plant, Doric HQ will cover the certification costs (except for the \$125 cylinder testing).

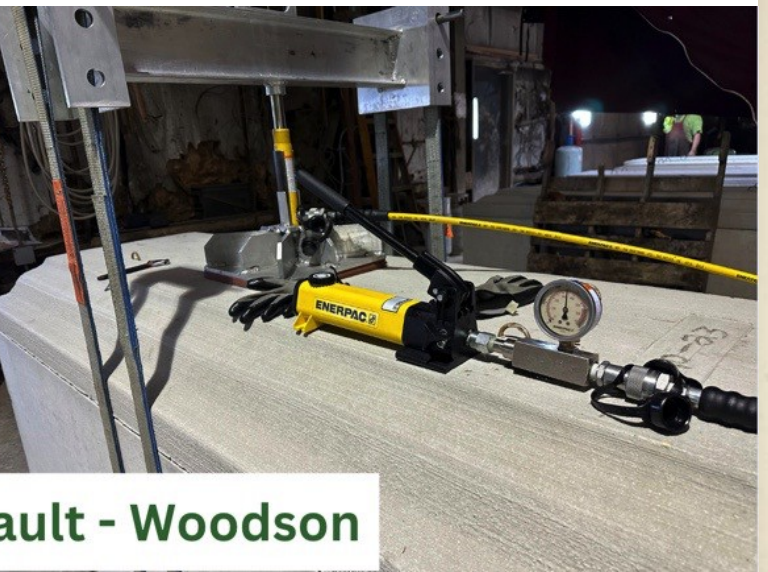
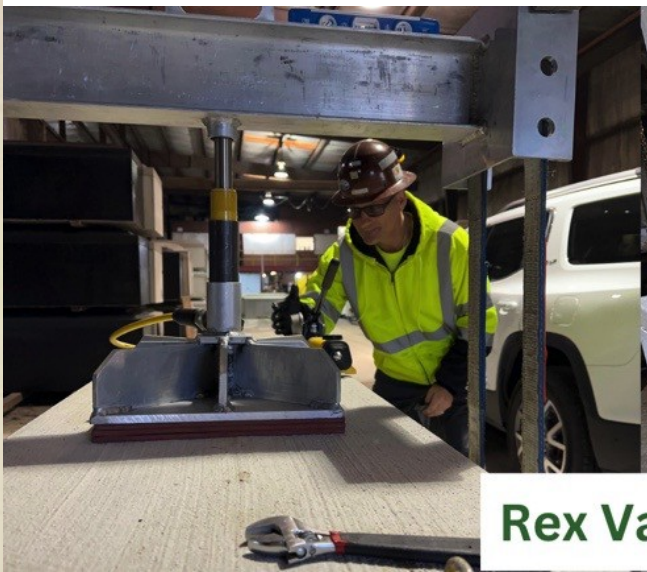
Our most recent plant certifications are:

- Atlas Concrete Products of Orlando, FL
- North Florida Vaults of Lake City, FL
- Lake Shore Burial Vault of Lannon, WI
- Rex Vault Service of Odon, IN
- Rex Vault & Mausoleum Service of Newton, IL
- Rex Vault Service of Woodson, IL

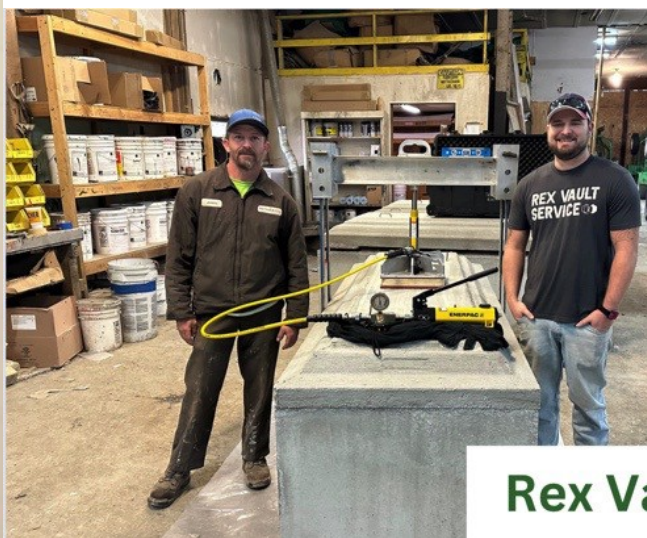




North Florida Vaults



Rex Vault - Woodson



Rex Vault - Newton



Rex Vault - Odon



Lake Shore Burial Vault

Certified Plant Logo

Certified plant? Let your customers know about it! [Request](#) the new **Certified Plant logo** and add it to your vehicles, website, and/or other marketing materials.



Schedule a Certification Visit with our Concrete Specialists



Patrick Lewandowski: Patrick has 31 years of industry experience and education in civil engineering construction materials working directly in the cement, ready-mix, governmental specification, mining, tunneling, precast, and macro-synthetic fiber industries.

Mike Barry: Mike has worked in the concrete industry since 1978, in QC and operations. He is certified as concrete field technician, flatwork finisher, pervious concrete installation technician, compressive strength testing, windsor probe testing, and nuclear density testing.



Throwback Thursdays

We have been digging through the archives to revisit interesting stories and member profiles from NCBVA's long history. We hope you have enjoyed these blasts from the past! [Like us on Facebook](#) to see what we find next!

It's "Throwback Thursday!" This article in the 2004 NCBVA Bulletin about diversification in the industry still holds weight today. Visit the link below to read about Dan Houk and Wilbert Precast's story.

Look for a walk down memory lane as we pull some additional stories from the archives over the coming weeks.

https://issuu.com/ncbva/docs/bulletin_2004_august



A Vault Manufacturer's Profile
This is the first in a new series for The Bulletin in which we will feature NCBVA members

Then
In 1917, Dan Houk's Great-Great Uncle Henry is ready to deliver vaults in his 1917 truck.

Diversification Leads to Success For Spokane's Wilbert Precast

By Sylvia Heidemann
NCBVA Staff Writer

There's a heap of history connected with the fourth-generation business now known as Wilbert Precast Inc., Spokane, WA. Way back in 1906, Dan T. Houk's great-grandfather, along with others having a pioneering spirit, decided to move far away from civilized Indiana. He and his brother (Dan's Great-Great Uncle Henry) took the top burial vault designs of the time and headed for the relatively unexplored business territory of Spokane.

The brothers set up a precast shop for the burial vaults, but also diversified into other types of concrete products to give them a good base of income. The products, of course, were an appropriate fit to the one-horse watering troughs, hitching posts, laundry tubs and trays, and the like. The two men had steady work and made a good living, eventually hiring an employee. The company remained a three-man operation from the 1940s (when Dan's grandfather took over) until 1961 when Dan's father bought out his grandfather.

"My Dad was a real marketer and salesman," says Dan. "Over a 30-year period he was responsible for really growing the business. During that time, we expanded into three locations. At our peak of production in the 1980s, we were shipping 4,500 vaults and graveboxes a year within



And Now Dan Houk stands proudly in front of a wall of Red-Block recently completed for a residence.

a 400-mile radius of Spokane, even going into Central and Western Montana."

Under the leadership of his father, the company began diversifying even more. A graduate of Washington State University's architectural school, Dan's father began designing precast manure pits (crops construction division and still builds manureboxes all over the country today. From 1906 to 1947, the company was known by various names. In 1948, it became Spokane Concrete Vault Company. In the 1940s, the company patented an enamel, complete unit that was very well received. This line was phased out when

construction division and still builds manureboxes all over the country today.

From 1906 to 1947, the company was known by various names. In 1948, it became Spokane Concrete Vault Company. In the 1940s, the company patented an enamel, complete unit that was very well received. This line was phased out when

It's Throwback Thursday again! We found this article about Babylon Vault Company participating in a bit of history back in 2004. Getting involved in community events is a great way to create some public awareness of the concrete burial vault industry.

We will continue with our walk down memory lane as we pull some additional stories from the archives over the coming weeks.

https://issuu.com/ncbva/docs/bulletin_2004_june

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Legal Counsel
J. Scott Collins, Esq.



With the use of Babylon Vault's crane track, placing the 1.5-ton granite statue on its pedestal is an easier task.

Historical Statue Gets a Lift With Help From Babylon Vault

Babylon Vault Company, long-standing member of NCBVA, recently had an unusual opportunity to participate in a bit of history.

These volunteers offered their services and one of Graham Babylon's crane tracks to help guide a statue of Robert Strawbridge, the founder of Methodism in the United States, to its final resting place. Babylon workers Bill Miller, Randy Myers and Steve Kester all volunteered to lend a hand in putting the statue on its pedestal near New Windsor, MD. They first wrapped straps around the statue so that it could be hooked onto a crane track. Kester

operated the crane that guided the statue onto the pin protruding from the pedestal.

"That pin is enough to hold it in place for good," said Kester according to a report from the *Baltimore Sun*. "It is like a monument on a gravestone."

Graham Babylon, owner of the New Windsor-based Babylon Vault Co. is a veteran member of NCBVA.

Alongside the Babylon workers, three men from the Strawbridge Shrine Association, while dressed in 1700-period style clothing assisted in positioning the statue.

Once in place, a prayer was given in the style of Strawbridge expressing gratitude to all for their help in erecting the statue.

Plans for the statue first began in 1914, however, a lack of money delayed its production. The 1.5-ton granite statue stands eight feet tall and depicts the preacher with a Bible in his left hand, right hand raised over his head and his mouth open in preaching.

The Strawbridge Shrine, which includes the statue, a log meeting house monument with crosses and the Robert Strawbridge house, will be open for tours.

The NCBVA Marketing Committee has been encouraging all concrete vault manufacturing companies to participate in community events such as this as a way of indirectly creating a public awareness of concrete burial vault companies. It's good marketing.

Index of Advertisers

American Cemetery Supplies, Inc.	4
Asia Corporation	30
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Cemetery Funeral Supply	34
Concrete Bronze Powder Co.	11
D & C Equipment	11
Doric Inc.	4
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Join NCBVA - The Unified Voice

Membership Benefits

Every major brand affiliation of concrete vault manufacturer is represented as a member of the organization.

As an association, the NCBVA represents groups that provide 90% of all outer burial receptacles interred within the boundaries of its membership.

WHY YOU SHOULD JOIN:

- 3 articles/year on a trending legal topic
- 3 Q&A conference calls with NCBVA legal counsel
- Ready-to-use legal templates such as:
 - disinterment legal form
 - social media policy sample
 - employee handbook including a write-up of the 10 key elements
 - job application form
- Access to NCBVA plant certification program with a concrete specialist

- Quarterly email updates on industry news and education
- Inclusion in our online active-member directory
- Opportunities to sponsor newsletters, emails, postcards, social posts, or legal calls
- Permission to utilize NCBVA membership logo and decals for trucks, email signatures, signage, and other marketing materials
- Unified voice of the industry to address industry regulations

Single-Site Membership - \$450

Vendor/Supplier - \$450

Multi-Site (manufacturing) Membership - \$1,000



**JOIN/RENEW NCBVA MEMBERSHIP
AND RECEIVE A \$225 DISCOUNT.**

Doric will pay \$225 towards
NCBVA membership dues.

Email Jkeller@doric-vaults.com



**JOIN/RENEW NCBVA MEMBERSHIP
AND RECEIVE A \$225 CREDIT.**

Trigard will credit any dealer \$225 towards
their NCBVA membership dues.

Email custserv@trigard.com

Download/Print NCBVA Membership Form

Add the new **NCBVA Member 2024 logo** to your website. [Send us an email](#) and we will respond with the logo, ready to insert to your marketing materials.



View all NCBVA [members](#).

The NCBVA Board of Directors



Kyle York, President
Wimmer Burial Vaults



John Dukes, VP
Watts Vault & Monument



Cory Bickes, Treasurer
Bickes, Inc.



Jeff Hardy, Past President
Hardy Doric, Inc.



Ethan Darby, Affiliate Dir.
Trigard & Eagle Brands



Jim Wiens, Affiliate Director
Concrete Vaults, Inc.



Royden Wood, Affiliate Dir.
The Wilbert Group



Todd Dean, Director
Richards Wilbert



Bruce Delle Chiaie, Director
Whitman Burial Vault



Paul Evans, Director
Evans Burial Vaults, Inc.



Craig Harms, Director
Lenox Cement Products

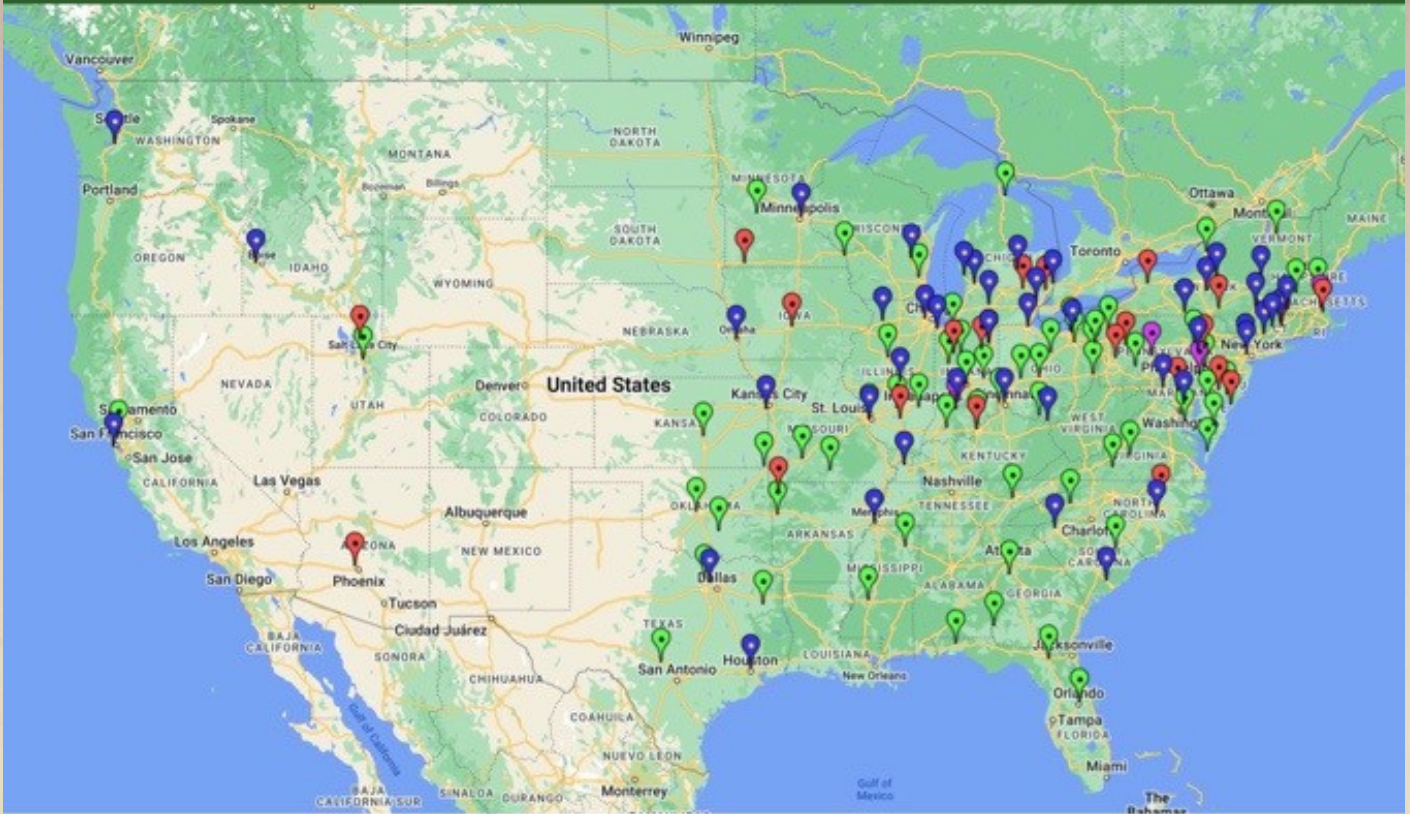


Ethan Leach, Director
Superior Vault

NCBVA Directory

Does your membership listing need to be updated or is it missing information? [Click here](#) for the membership directory and [let us know](#) if you have any edits.

Our Membership Network



National Last Responders Day

After witnessing the dedication and service of death care professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic, [Carriage Services](#) wanted to create a National Last Responders Day.

NATIONAL
LAST RESPONDERS
DAY

[Beginning this year, January 20 will be recognized as National Last Responders Day.](#) This will be a "day dedicated to the observance and acknowledgment of the critical and often overlooked role of last responders – funeral directors, mortuary staff, and other professionals who ensure dignity in death," said Shane Pudenz, senior vice president of sales and marketing at Carriage Services.

Thank you for taking care of our communities! [Click on the article](#) to read the full story.

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

To keep up-to-date with industry news, upcoming legal calls, and more, [follow us on Facebook!](#)

NCBVA - National Concrete Burial Vault Association
Just now

Every grave has a story, and this article shares some unusual graves and the mysteries and stories behind them.

<https://the-line-up.com/6-unusual-graves>



[HTTPS://THE-LINE-UP.COM/6-UNUSUAL-GRAVES](https://the-line-up.com/6-unusual-graves)
The Haunting Stories Behind Six Unusual Graves
Every grave has a story. These strikingly unusual graves have equa...

NCBVA - National Concrete Burial Vault Association
January 10 at 12:30 PM

Remember to add these dates to your calendar for OSHA injury and illness reporting. Click on the links below to access each section.

New Requirements:
<https://bit.ly/3SGwdH3>
2023 Injury and Illness Data Tracking:
<https://bit.ly/48HHEAN>
Summary of Injuries and Illnesses:
<https://bit.ly/3N4VgFz>

OSHA Reporting Reminders

It's time to close out OSHA injury and illness reporting. Below are some key dates to remember:

- **Jan. 1:** Effective date of [new requirements](#) for injury and illness submissions through OSHA's Injury Tracking Application.
- **Jan. 2:** Date OSHA began accepting [2023 injury and illness data through its Injury Tracking Application](#).
- **Feb. 1:** Date for employers to start posting their 300A [summary of injuries and illnesses](#) recorded in 2023. Summary must be posted through April.
- **March 2:** Due date to complete submission of [2023 injury and illness data through OSHA's Injury Tracking Application](#).

NCBVA - National Concrete Burial Vault Association
January 4 at 5:28 PM

Throwback Thursday: This article from 2006 shows us the long history of Creter Vault Corp, their product diversification over the years, and how they believe NCBVA membership has benefited their business.

Click on the link to read the article.
https://issuu.com/ncbva/docs/bulletin_2006_december



PRINT OR FORWARD THE NEWSLETTER

[Download/Print](#) a copy of this newsletter and share it with others who may be interested.

Feel free to **forward this newsletter to a friend or co-worker**. They can join NCBVA or sign up for upcoming communication on the [NCBVA website](#).

Member Bylaws

NCBVA

www.ncbva.org

Contact



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