



Stewart Enterprises to Build Mortuaries in Three Catholic Cemeteries in California

NEW ORLEANS--Sept. 3, 1998--Stewart Enterprises, Inc. (NASDAQ NMS: STEI - news) today announced that it has signed agreements to construct and operate three additional mortuaries on land leased from the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, bringing to nine the number of mortuaries to be built for the Archdiocese.

The most recent agreements with the Archdiocese of Los Angeles are for the construction and operation of Assumption Mortuary in Assumption Cemetery in Simi Valley, Holy Cross Mortuary of Pomona in Holy Cross Cemetery in Pomona, and Santa Clara Mortuary in Santa Clara Cemetery in Oxnard.

"Our commitment to providing Catholic families throughout the Archdiocese of Los Angeles with the very finest and most convenient services and facilities during their time of bereavement continues. Last year, we announced plans for Stewart to construct and operate mortuaries on land leased in six of our cemeteries. Today, we have extended our commitment to Catholic families served by Holy Cross of Pomona, Assumption and Santa Clara Cemeteries. We will be able to better serve the families of Ventura County," said Reverend Monsignor Terrance L. Fleming, S.T.D., vicar general and moderator of the curia for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. He added, "Our relationship with Stewart continues to strengthen as we move toward realization of our goals, and we remain confident in this new era of service to Catholic families."

In June of this year, groundbreakings took place for Calvary Mortuary in Los Angeles and Holy Cross Mortuary in Culver City. In August, groundbreakings were held for All Souls Mortuary in Long Beach and Queen of Heaven in Rowland Heights. Groundbreakings will be scheduled in upcoming months for San Fernando Mission Mortuary in Mission Hills and Resurrection Mortuary in Montebello.

"The response by the Los Angeles community to the planned mortuary developments in the Archdiocesan cemeteries has exceeded our expectations," stated Joseph P. Henican, III, vice chairman and chief executive officer of Stewart Enterprises, Inc., adding, "Everyone I spoke with at the groundbreaking ceremonies, including area families, local clergy and cemetery employees, welcomed the mortuaries as a valuable addition to the cemeteries and expressed an eagerness for construction to begin."

Founded in 1910, Stewart Enterprises, Inc. is the third largest provider of products and services in the death care industry in North America, currently owning and operating 534 funeral homes and 136 cemeteries in North America, Europe, the Pacific Rim and South America.

Contact:

Stewart Enterprises Inc., New Orleans
Joseph P. Henican III, 504/837-5880