



## *100 Years of State College Tradition*





## The State College Choral Society



The State College Choral Society extends congratulations to Koch Funeral Home for 100 years of service to the community.

The Society is proud to announce exciting plans for our 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary season as the premier community choral group. We are pleased to have Koch Funeral Home as our Corporate Sponsor for our December 14 concert.

### **Saturday, October 5, 2013**

7:30 p.m., Eisenhower Auditorium  
Collaboration with Nittany Valley Symphony  
*Ninth Symphony*, Beethoven  
*Schicksalslied*, Brahms

### **Saturday, December 14, 2013**

7:30 p.m., Pasquerilla Spiritual Center  
**December Colors** with Centre Brass

### **Sunday, December 15, 2013**

4:00 p.m., St. James the Greater Catholic Church  
Charles Town, WV  
**December Colors** with Centre Brass

### **Saturday, May 10, 2014**

7:00 p.m., Pasquerilla Spiritual Center  
*St. John Passion*, Bach

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**P.O. Box 675, State College, PA 16804**

**For tickets, call (814) 404-9223 or visit [www.scchoralsociety.org](http://www.scchoralsociety.org)**

## ***Congratulations to Koch Funeral Home on 100 years of compassionate service to our community.***

Koch Funeral Home is respected by many who have trusted its devotion to honoring our loved ones with the utmost compassion and reverence. One hundred years of experience in helping families through grief is a legacy rich in tradition, understanding, and caring. TIDES is honored and grateful to partner with Koch Funeral Home in its future commitment to serving the needs of the community. Founded in 2003, TIDES is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing support for grieving children, teens, and the people who love them, and is funded through charitable donations from individuals, corporations, foundations, and community service organizations, such as Koch Funeral Home. There are no fees for participation in the TIDES program.

***Thank you, Koch Funeral Home, for supporting TIDES' core purpose of assisting grieving children and teens as they rediscover meaning in their lives.***



[www.tidesprogram.org](http://www.tidesprogram.org)

**P.O. Box 1251, State College, PA 16804  
(814) 692-2233**

# Thank you.

We give thanks to Koch Funeral Home for a century of service in our shared community.



## ***Thank you, Koch Funeral Home,***

*for taking care of our families when they need it most.*

*For 100 years, your compassionate, professional service has been a cornerstone of our community.*

*Congratulations on your milestone anniversary!*



[www.goh-inc.com](http://www.goh-inc.com)

**1952 Waddle Road, Suite 203, State College, PA 16803**  
**(800) 221-1355**

## About This Commemorative Section

Just 18 months after Glenn Fleming joined Koch Funeral Home as one of its owners, the Barash family met him during the most horrible loss in our lifetime — the passing of Sy Barash, my first husband and the father of our children, Carol (then age 16) and Nan (13), after his two and a half year battle against lung cancer. Koch Funeral Home and this remarkable community rallied to our rescue.

We were stunned and lost in a maze of emotions and fears. Glenn literally and figuratively held our hands through the process. He respected and honored our need to follow the Jewish traditions, and gave us more personal support than we ever imagined possible.

Our community was much smaller then. No fancy municipal building, Bryce Jordan Center, The Towers, Smeal College of Business ... and Koch's Funeral Home was at the corner of College and Burrowes, where the Lion Line now conducts its fundraising.

Thirty-eight years later, at the beginning of my 81st year, I feel privileged to have been able



to be a part of the team who helped create this special section celebrating the 100th anniversary of Koch Funeral Home and the

folks who have made it what it is today. Even more fortunate, I'm honored to help Glenn and his colleagues decide on significant gifts to the community to celebrate and leave a lasting legacy.

Between now and December 31, Koch Funeral Home owner F. Glenn Fleming and business partner Thomas F. Brown will match up to \$50,000 in gifts to Tides, a supportive nonprofit organization devoted to children who have lost siblings or parents. Young but strong, Tides has established its capacity to help make miracles happen. A part of the match already has been committed based on revenue from advertising in this section. Partnering with the State College Choral Society, Koch Funeral Home also will sponsor the holiday concert "December Colors" on December 14 in the Pasquerilla Spiritual Center, with part of the proceeds benefiting Tides.

Koch Funeral Home epitomizes what happens when a tradition of caring and a legacy of service meet. In reality, if you live in State College long enough, at some point, Koch Funeral Home becomes a friend of yours for life.



We at *Town&Gown* collectively salute and thank them on this 100th anniversary landmark.

*Mimi Barash Coppersmith*

Mimi U. Barash Coppersmith

Koch Funeral Home • [www.kochfuneralhome.com](http://www.kochfuneralhome.com) • 2401 S. Atherton St. • (814) 237-2712

*Congratulations to Koch on 100 years*  
serving the State College Community  
with well wishes for many more!

[www.nittanylioninn.psu.edu](http://www.nittanylioninn.psu.edu) • [www.thepennstaterhotel.psu.edu](http://www.thepennstaterhotel.psu.edu)

## Centre LifeLink EMS

Until 1941, State College's ambulance service consisted of Hubert Koch's hearse. When a physician ordered the "ambulance," he had to ride along, since the funeral home didn't have paramedics.

On May 5, 1941, members of the borough's fire company founded the Alpha Ambulance Club, named Hubert Koch president, and borrowed money to buy its first ambulance, a 1941 Cadillac equipped with supplies donated by State College businesses. Every fireman went door to door selling ambulance memberships to cover expenses.



Now operating seven ambulances out of three stations, the Alpha Ambulance Club grew into Centre LifeLink EMS, one of only seven PA ambulance services accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services. Paid and volunteer EMTs and paramedics provide emergency service 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Last year, Centre LifeLink crews responded to 5,798 ambulance calls. Since the nonprofit organization receives no tax dollars, member subscriptions continue to be a vital funding source.



Hubie Koch is third from the right in this photo of the 1942 ambulance crew.

[www.centrelifelink.com](http://www.centrelifelink.com)

## Proud to Serve

*Ray Burial Vault Company was founded in 1942 by Carl Ivan Ray Sr. in an old garage on Muncy Street in Tyrone. More than 50 years ago, the company began serving Koch Funeral Home and its clients, first with the standard top seal vault and later with the Eagle vault.*

*In 1964, Carl's son, Carl I. Ray Jr., took over the family business, eventually passing it on to his sons, James and Matthew B., in 1991. Through three generations, Ray Burial and Koch Funeral Home have enjoyed a working relationship based on friendship and trust. We look forward to serving Koch Funeral Home for many more years to come.*

**Ray Burial Vault Company**  
**14499 S. Eagle Valley Road, Tyrone, PA 1686**  
**(814) 684-0104**





# Koch

## Funeral Home

### *100 Years of Dignified, Caring Service*

Although Koch Funeral Home is celebrating its 100th anniversary, the business traces its roots back to 1878, when John G. Heberling established a funeral home and furniture store in Pine Grove Mills. Upon his death, his son, J. Benton Heberling, took over the family business and then moved it to State College in 1905. Benton sold Heberling Funeral Home in 1912, and Harry Koch a 34-year-old farmer, took over one year later.

Harry Koch and his wife, Margaret Campbell Koch,

opened the newly named Koch Funeral Home in their own home on the southwest corner

of South Burrowes Street and West College Avenue in 1913. For \$500, Harry bought two horses, Dick and Doc, who pulled the funeral home's carriages. Harry's first funeral was for Ambrose McKivison, age 18, on April 27, 1913.

Funeral services in those days usually were in family homes, with interment in nearby plots and church cemeteries, so Harry spent a lot of time traveling throughout Centre County.



*The College Hotel in 1912, the year before Koch Funeral Home opened*



*The Koch home at College and Burrowes served as the funeral home until 1935.*

When a family wanted to hold a viewing at the funeral home, the Kochs would move all their belongings from the first floor of their home upstairs so the viewing could take place downstairs.

### **The Early Days**

When Harry Koch started his business a century ago, the Borough of State College had less than 2,000 residents. Streets were still dirt, and homes had just begun to add electric lights. The College Hotel (now Hotel State College and the Corner Room) boasted a bowling alley and barber shop in its basement. In 1914 the



Harry Koch with Dick and Doc



Harry shows off his motorized vehicle in 1922.

Pastime Theatre brought movies to town in the building that is now M&T Bank.

State College was growing and advancing. By 1918, the advent of motor vehicles meant Harry needed to add a hearse with more horsepower than Dick and Doc could provide.

"I barely got started with horse-drawn equipment when I had to start over again with motor vehicles," Harry used to say. But he knew that change was essential to serve the community properly. Boalsburg blacksmith Al Gingrich adapted a new, stripped-down Model T for use as a hearse. Still, Harry didn't want to just write off the expensive horse-drawn model. In 1922 he had Gingrich mount it

on a Dodge chassis so it could be used without Dick and Doc.

## Serving a Growing Community

Growth for both State College and Koch Funeral Home continued. By the early 1930s, the borough's population was approaching 5,000 residents. Each of the first three years of the decade saw the borough annexing land to grow its borders, including Manor Hills, northern College Heights, and the Lytle Addition. The Nittany Lion Inn opened in 1931; the grand-opening menu featured a Nittany Lion sculpted from Penn State ice cream. With the nationwide legalization of beer in 1933, the Green Room Restaurant (now the Rathskeller) received the borough's first tavern license.

Other changes brought by the motor vehicle were becoming apparent. No longer did people live in big family houses that could accommodate many visitors for a funeral, and not everyone had a church or family plot close by. In 1935 Harry Koch, in partnership with his son Hubert (a 1930 graduate of Penn State), answered the need by building a brick colonial addition on South Burrowes Street next to their family home. The growing business moved out of the house and into the new building.

In 1946, Hubert took over the family business, with the help of his sister, Esther Koch Shaw. One year later, he built a small chapel next to the funeral home to accommodate the needs of



The brick funeral home (left) and the 1947 chapel

the growing community for convenient funeral services.

Those post-World War II years brought boom times to State College as returning soldiers enrolled at Penn State under the GI Bill of Rights. Students scrambled for housing, and 350 surplus government trailers became married student housing, known as Windcrest. Al Hawbaker built more than 80 homes in the South Allen Street and Lytle Avenue area, and New York-based Shapiro Construction built the 40 brick duplexes that still line South Atherton Street. Two Penn State alumni opened The Tavern in 1948.

In 1950, Hubert Koch moved his family into a new home on Nimitz Avenue, and funeral director Carroll "Gus" Ekdahl moved into the Koch house next door to the funeral home. With added staff, the Kochs continued to operate their business with the philosophy of neighbor helping neighbor, extending their



service throughout the growing Centre Region.

### Handing Over the Reins

By the early 1970s, the Borough of State College had more than 32,000 residents, and new neighborhoods were springing up in the surrounding townships. Interstate 80 opened in 1970, bringing easier access to the region. In 1972, the Mountainview Unit (now Mount Nittany Health System) of the Bellefonte-based Centre County Hospital opened just east of Beaver Stadium. In 1974, the Alpha Fire Company celebrated its 75th anniversary and moved into its current building at South Atherton Street and Beaver Avenue.

In 1973 F. Glenn Fleming began directing the funeral home after Hubert Koch retired (he passed away in December 1974 at age 68). Fleming continued to work with Kenneth J. DeVeney and Gus Ekdahl as funeral directors

Congratulations

**Koch**  
Funeral Home

on your **100<sup>th</sup>** anniversary

 **Batesville**

Helping families honor the lives of  
those they love.®

**My success**  
chamber of business & industry of centre county

Congratulations to Koch Funeral Home on your 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as a CBICC member! As a longtime member of the Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County, you help promote healthy business growth while maintaining the quality of life in Centre County.

**200 Innovation Blvd.,  
Suite 150,  
State College, PA 16803**

**CBICC**  
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and with Esther Koch Shaw, who was secretary-receptionist until her early 90s (she passed away in 2007 at age 96). A native of Forest Hills, Fleming had attended the Virginia Military Institute, the University of Pittsburgh, and



(From left) F. Glenn Fleming, Ethel Koch (Hubert's widow), architect Joseph Teplica, and Esther Koch at the groundbreaking for the new building in 1978

the Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science. He spent 10 years working at a Hollidaysburg funeral home and then at Hershey Medical Center before taking the helm at Koch.

By the late 1970s, Koch Funeral Home needed more space for visitations, and more parking than downtown streets allowed. On February 15, 1978, Koch broke ground for a new South Atherton Street funeral home, located on four acres of land purchased from Meyer Dairy Farm. Joseph Teplica of Bellefonte was the architect, and the contractor was RNR Construction Co. This new facility — still serving Koch clients today — features three visitation rooms that also can act as chapels, plus plenty of on-site parking.

### Across the Generations

Today, the Borough of State College has grown into the downtown anchor for the Centre Region, with 42,034 residents in the borough and 92,687 in the borough and surrounding townships combined. Since 1973, F. Glenn



Harper's is proud to be part of the State College community since 1926 — operating at the same location, always offering finer men's clothing, custom clothing, and free alterations.

From our third generation of family retailers, we congratulate Koch Funeral Home on its 100th anniversary.

**www.harpersshopformen.com**  
**114 W. College Ave.**  
**(814) 237-8900**

**Thank you,  
 Koch Funeral Home,  
 for 100 years of  
 serving our  
 community!**



**avánt garden, inc.**  
 artistic floral design

**www.avantgardenfloral.com**  
**242 Calder Way, State College, PA**  
**(814) 231-1212**



## A Growing Community

As the Borough of State College grew over the years, Koch Funeral Home expanded to accommodate the needs of residents in the borough and surrounding areas.

Date	Borough Population
1910	1,425
1920	2,405
1930	4,450
1940	6,226
1950	17,227
1960	22,409
1970	32,833
1980	36,130
1990	38,923
2000	38,420
2010	42,034

Fleming and his caring and professional staff have continued the Koch family tradition, which this year marks one century of helping neighbors throughout the area.

The full-service funeral home offers a complete range of options to meet the needs of individual families, including a crematory on the premises, as well as assistance and information regarding funeral planning, educational materials and programs, bereavement support groups, and pre-need planning. In 2012, Koch Funeral Home served more than 260 families — 10 times the 26 families who used the funeral home's services back in 1913.

Among the families served last year was the Paterno family, following the death on January 22 of Penn State football coach Joe Paterno. Koch Funeral Home had served the Paterno family prior to the passing of the coach, who was a long-time acquaintance of Fleming's. The Paterno family later noted, "Our family cannot say enough about the caring and compassionate



***Wishing Koch Funeral Home the best during your centennial year... and for the century to come.***

***2601 Gateway Drive,  
Suite 100  
State College,  
PA 16801-3213  
(814) 231-1310  
Fax (814) 231-0753***

***Best wishes to Koch Funeral Home as you celebrate 100 years of serving the community***

***Frank & Elaine Musser  
Frank D. Musser Excavating  
Proud to be part of the  
Koch Funeral Home family  
since 1987***

***Petersburg, PA  
(814) 667-2581  
(814) 880-0223***

manner that Koch Funeral Home showed us during Joe's viewing and funeral. They exceeded expectations during a challenging and difficult time."

Pine Grove Mills native Wanda (Gauthier) Givier (daughter of Indian Joe), now of Belleville, says, "As far back as I can remember, our family has trusted Koch's to lovingly take care of family members at the time of death. I was 10 years old when my grandfather, Roy Barto, passed away. Since then, Koch's has taken care of three generations of my family, the latest being my sister in April of this year. In her circumstance, they all went over and above what was required, and we truly appreciate their concern and understanding."



Glenn Fleming

**"Our family cannot say enough about the caring and compassionate manner that Koch Funeral Home showed us during Joe's viewing and funeral. They exceeded expectations during a challenging and difficult time."  
— The Paterno family**

In congratulating Koch Funeral Home on its 100th anniversary, John Eirkson, executive director of the Pennsylvania Funeral Directors Association, says, "Koch Funeral Home, as well as Glenn Fleming, have been known for their commitment to professionalism and quality service. The funeral home and the staff have consistently been leaders in the community as well as the funeral service profession in Pennsylvania."

Fleming is the 132nd president of the association; in 2014, he will mark half a century as a licensed funeral director. Under his longtime direction, Koch Funeral Home will enter its second century of carrying out its tradition of caring and its legacy of service. **T&G**

## Funeral Pre-Planning

Koch Funeral Home advocates pre-planning your funeral now to help your loved ones later.

Pre-planning gives you:

- Peace of mind. Pre-planning relieves the pressure of decision-making at a time of grief and emotional stress.
- Personal choice. Pre-planning allows you to make practical, detailed decisions that reflect your standards, lifestyle, taste, and budget and assures you and your family that the choices you make will be carried out as planned.
- Lower costs. When you finalize your plan, you do not have to set aside funds, but doing so protects you against escalating funeral costs. By locking in today's funeral costs and ensuring that necessary funds are set aside, you relieve yourself of worry and your survivors of an unexpected expense.

***We applaud  
Koch Funeral Home  
for a century of service  
to our community.  
Many thanks for your  
generous support  
over the years.***



**Pennsylvania  
Centre  
Orchestra**

**[www.centreorchestra.org](http://www.centreorchestra.org)  
(814) 234-8313**



## Presidential Visits

Some funerals are more complicated than others. When the president of the United States attends, arrangements must be precise. Koch Funeral Home has handled presidential visits twice over the years.

The first was on July 13, 1954, when President Dwight D. Eisenhower attended the funeral of his sister-in-law, Helen Eakin Eisenhower. The late Mrs. Eisenhower was the wife of then-Penn State President Milton Eisenhower, brother of the U.S. president. Although she had been ill for some time, her death on July 10 at the age of 49 still had been unexpected.

President Eisenhower and First Lady Mamie Eisenhower flew into Martinsburg Airport the day of the funeral on the presidential plane Columbine, accompanied by a press plane.

Koch arranged for sedans to transport the president, first lady, and Secret Service agents from the airport to State College. Later, townspeople

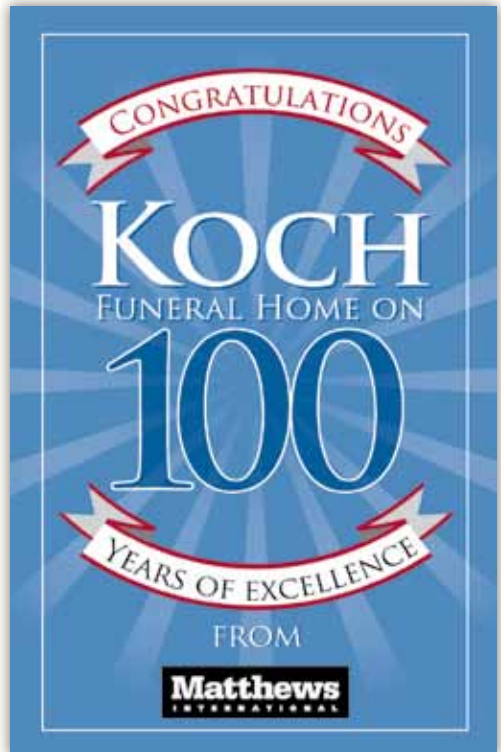
lined the streets to watch the funeral procession pass by on its way from St. Andrew's Episcopal Church to the cemetery, in recognition of both Penn State's beloved first lady and the nation's president.

Almost 20 years later, on July 5, 1973, President Richard M. Nixon traveled to State College to attend the funeral of his uncle, Leland Warren Nixon. Widely known as the "potato wizard of Pennsylvania," Leland Nixon was a potato farmer and former professor of plant pathology at Penn State. President Nixon flew to State College by helicopter shortly before the service, and Koch Funeral Home arranged his transportation in town. **T&G**

## Woodrings Floral Gardens

*Since 1922, Woodrings Floral Gardens has been serving the floral needs of Central Pennsylvania, from fresh flowers to arrangements to green plants. We're proud of our long-term relationship with Koch Funeral Home and look forward to the next 100 years. Congratulations on your anniversary!*

[www.woodringsfloral.com](http://www.woodringsfloral.com)  
145 S. Allen St., State College  
125 S. Allegheny St., Bellefonte  
(800) 62-ROSES





## Preserving Local History

Hubert Koch was an avid amateur photographer and collected historic photos of

State College, Penn State, and the surrounding area. Clients often entrusted him with old photos they found in loved ones' attics.



Hubert Koch (left) and the Penn State Alumni Association's Ross Lehman with historic photos

Hubert hung the historic photos in the old funeral home, and Fleming continued the tradition when he built the new funeral home.

In 1990, the Centre County Historical Society presented Ethel Noll Koch and F. Glenn Fleming with the Award for Excellence in Preserving Centre County History in recognition of their preservation and presentation of the Hubert C. Koch Photograph Collection. **T&G**



*Family owned and operated since 1927, Balfurd has grown into a full-service fabric care provider, including dry cleaning, healthcare and linen rental, and specialty services. Now a fourth-generation business, we're proud to serve central and western Pennsylvania, offering high-quality service with a personal touch.*

# Balfurd

[www.balfurd.com](http://www.balfurd.com)



Thank you, Koch Funeral Home, for your longtime cooperation, assistance, and caring during the times that are most difficult in our lives.

For many years, Koch Funeral Home and its dedicated staff have gone above and beyond to support members of our congregation who are mourning a loved one. Koch has always demonstrated deep respect for Jewish funeral customs, from facilitating burial within 24 hours to keeping on hand a container of soil from Israel.



**congregation brit shalom**

620 E. Hamilton Ave.  
State College, PA 16801  
[Britshalompa.org](http://Britshalompa.org)

# A Tradition of Community Service

*December 14 concert  
to benefit Tides*



For the past century, Koch Funeral Home has served the community not just through its business activities but also through contributions of time,

leadership, and funds to worthy nonprofit organizations. Glenn Fleming proudly carries on this tradition of neighbor helping neighbor.

"Glenn Fleming has been a long-time supporter of State High's All Night Party," says

Joy Vincent-Killian, 2013 fundraising chair for the event. "Each year, Koch Funeral Home's generous financial donation, together with those of other parents and alumni, helps keep over 500 teens safe at the after-prom sober event. As a local businessman, Glenn knows how important it is to give to local events."

The Salvation Army of Centre County is another beneficiary of that goodwill. "Koch Funeral Home and Glenn have been strong supporters for the annual Hope Endures Dinner, which is one of the main fundraisers for the organization," says Jack Heckendorn, Salvation Army advisory board member. "Glenn and his wife, Margie, are very involved in the community and have attended the annual dinner on numerous occasions in an effort to support our organization making a difference."

Fleming is a longtime



State College Choral Society

volunteer with the Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra, having served as a board member and president. "I know that the PCO has a special place in Glenn's heart, for he loves classical music," says Patricia Stutzman-Roeber, past president. "But it is not just for himself that he supported the orchestra with his time. ... Nor is it why he continues to support the PCO generously, attending concerts and functions and delighting them with donations, but because Glenn believes that the quality of life for everyone is enhanced by this organization and that he has an obligation to help when and where he can."

A longtime State College Kiwanis Club member, Fleming has held various board positions and was the Holiday Basketball Tournament chairman for 17 years. He received the George F. Hixon Award, Kiwanis International Foundation's highest honor, for demonstrating strong support and service to the community. He also has received Easter Seals' Brace for an Ace Award for volunteer service on behalf of people with disabilities and Pennsylvania Centre Orchestra's Amadeus Award for his many years of leadership.

This year, Koch Funeral Home is celebrating its 100th anniversary by sponsoring a holiday concert. The State College Choral Society is teaming up with the Centre Brass Quintet for "December Colors," a concert planned for December 14 at 7:30 p.m. in Penn State's Pasquerilla Spiritual Center. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for students, and are available at [www.sccchoralsociety.org](http://www.sccchoralsociety.org). A portion of the proceeds will benefit Tides, a nonprofit support group for grieving children and the people who love them.

The support for Tides is part of a larger contribution Koch Funeral Home owner F. Glenn Fleming and business partner Thomas E. Brown are making to the organization this year. As a 100th anniversary gift, the partners are matching up to \$50,000 in contributions to Tides from the community.

"We've been involved with Tides from the beginning," Fleming says. "It's a much-needed organization in our community. Children who have had a death in the family can carry on through life knowing the camaraderie of others who have experienced such loss." **T&G**

## ***Frost & Conn, Inc.***

Just a dozen years after Harry Koch began his business, John Taylor opened an insurance agency in Centre County in 1925. Later, Penn State alumnus P.A. "Jack" Frost bought and grew the agency, eventually passing it on to the next generations. In 1994, the P.A. Frost agency, owned by Rod Fletcher, and Conn Insurance, owned by Burt Conn and Robert Medsger, joined to become Frost&Conn.

Today, almost 90 years after signing its first customer, Frost & Conn continues to offer insurance and financial services with an emphasis on personal service. Congratulations to Koch Funeral Home on your 100th anniversary from a fellow longtime Centre County business!

**FROST & CONN**  
INCORPORATED

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