

For Immediate Release

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**CENTRAL-TEXAS BASED WILKIRSON-HATCH-BAILEY HONORED FOR
COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY**

***Selected Independent Funeral Homes Marks Wilkirson-Hatch-Bailey's
50-Year Milestone***

WACO, TEXAS – OCTOBER 7, 2002 – Wilkirson-Hatch-Bailey Funeral Homes, the leader in funeral services in Central Texas, has been recognized for its 50 years of service as a member of Selected Independent Funeral Homes. The award highlights Wilkirson-Hatch-Bailey's commitment to the Central Texas community to offer quality service and to its dedication to the independent funeral home industry.

Selected Independent Funeral Homes is an International association of independently owned and operated funeral homes and mortuaries. Countries represented by the association include England, Germany, Australia and Mexico. Membership in Selected Independent Funeral Homes is by invitation only, and is extended to funeral homes and mortuaries only after a thorough evaluation of their reputation, character, service and facilities.

"Since becoming a member in 1952, Wilkirson-Hatch-Bailey has demonstrated consistent adherence to the principles and standards that are the foundation of our association," said George W. Clarke, executive director of Selected Independent Funeral Homes. "The firm has been an asset to Selected Independent Funeral Homes and the funeral profession, and we extend to the management and staff our congratulations and gratitude as we mark this important milestone."

In acceptance of their responsibilities, and as a condition of membership, members are guided by a Code of Good Funeral Practices. In addition, members annually request the opinions of the families they serve. By completing a survey, family members of the deceased provide direct feedback regarding their experiences with the funeral home, in areas ranging from the condition of the funeral home and courtesy of the staff to freedom to make decisions without sales pressure.

"After my late grandfather, Roy Hatch, was invited into this membership 50 years ago, my family has been dedicated to continuing in his footsteps," said Hatch Bailey, president of Wilkirson-Hatch-Bailey Funeral Homes. "We strive to be the best of the best. As a result we feel our client families are served very well, and trust is validated in the industry. We appreciate the honor and feel it confirms our efforts."

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About Wilkirson-Hatch-Bailey Funeral Homes

Now in its 77th year, Wilkirson-Hatch-Bailey is truly a family serving families. A member by invitation of the prestigious Selected Independent Funeral Homes, founded in 1917 as National Selected Morticians (NSM), Wilkirson-Hatch-Bailey strives to maintain the highest ethical and professional standards. Current staff members of Wilkirson-Hatch-Bailey have a combined 367 years of experience serving the Central Texas community. Each employee is carefully trained to provide conscientious, efficient service in the manner and tradition established by Roy Hatch.

In 1925 Dillard J. Wilkirson, a businessman from Eddy, Texas, assisted both his son, Jim Wilkirson, and son-in-law, Roy Hatch, in establishing Wilkirson and Hatch Funeral Home. From the beginning until his retirement in 1975, Roy Hatch served as President of the company. Today his grandson, Hatch Bailey, represents the fourth generation of the family to operate the funeral homes. Wilkirson-Hatch-Bailey was selected Business of the Year by the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce in 1995. For more information, visit www.wilkirsonhatchbailey.com.

About Selected Independent Funeral Homes

Selected Independent Funeral Homes has grown as a professional association to more than 1,600 independently owned funeral homes worldwide. As a professional association, the members of Selected Independent Funeral Homes are the defenders of the best funeral practices and services consumers should expect when making funeral arrangements. Its professional association actively polices its members to ensure that consumers receive the best care available when choosing a Selected Independent Funeral Home. Guided by a Code of Good Funeral Practice, Selected Independent Funeral Homes members are the trusted, local, civic leaders who are often considered pillars of their community. Many of its funeral homes are run by several generations of family members committed to helping people. They are locally active and committed to their communities. And they are determined to offer consumers a wide range of choices to create a meaningful tribute following the death of a loved one. For more information, visit www.selectedfuneralhomes.org.

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