

Thursday, August 30, 2001

## Area funeral home helps with service for singer Aaliyah

By **DALE ANDERSON**  
*News Staff Reporter*

A Hamburg funeral home has arranged for the release of white doves during the funeral of actress and recording artist Aaliyah, scheduled Friday in New York City.

Lakeside Memorial Funeral Home was contacted by the prestigious Frank E. Campbell Funeral Home in New York after Aaliyah's family requested the dove release in her memory following church services. The Campbell Funeral Home, having never offered this type of service, called Lakeside's director, Charles A. Castiglia, for assistance.

"I and the Lakeside Memorial Funeral Home are both extremely honored to be recognized on the national level for the services we offer the community," Castiglia said, "especially our signature 'Release of the Doves' service. It's been tremendously received and has been a very positive way to end a funeral."

The ceremony, which has been offered by Lakeside for four years and which is performed at virtually all of its funerals, features the release of seven white doves into the air at the end of a funeral service, symbolizing the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Castiglia said that he was inspired to start offering the release of doves after seeing the release of white homing pigeons at a wedding.

"The funeral director for Campbell is originally from Hamburg," Castiglia said Wednesday evening, "and he knew that we did this through his family. He called up and asked me how I did it. We handled all the arrangements for it from our office in Hamburg. I recommended 22 doves, because that's how old she was."

Born Aaliyah Haughton, the Grammy-nominated star with a platinum-selling album and high-profile movie roles to her credit died Saturday when a small plane carrying her and seven others crashed shortly after takeoff in the Bahamas, where she had been shooting a video.



Doves fly above a crowd assembled for a 1999 memorial service outside Lakeside Memorial Funeral Home, which has been selected to release doves for the funeral of recording artist Aaliyah.