Not many businesses can say they’ve been around for over fifty years. Even less can say they’ve been around for sixty years. Well, Bryan-Braker Funeral Home has been around for even longer than that.

It was 1954 when Paul C. Bryan, Jr. purchased the only funeral home in Fairfield and added his name to the door. The Hanson-Bryan was purchased after Paul was able to use his G.I. bill to attend mortuary collage. In 1964, Paul relocated the business from it’s original location and moved it to where it still sits today at 1850 W. Texas Street in Fairfield. It was the same year that he started his own above-ground cemetery, Fairmont Memorial Park on Union Ave in Fairfield.

It was also around this time that he changed the name from Hanson-Bryan Funeral Home to Bryan-Braker Funeral Home. William “Bill” Braker was a key employee to the business and Paul felt having his name on the door as well was the perfect fit.

After ten years of school studying Business and Finance, Craig Bryan, son of Paul, asked his father if he could work for him for a year to get the understanding of how a business runs before he went out on his own. That one year turned into two and now, 36 years later, Craig has continued in the family business.

“I found out that we worked really well together,” Craig smiled as he remembered.

Even though Braker retired in the eighties, his name still remains on the door. “We’ll always be Bryan-Braker,” Craig stated with pride.

In the late nineties, Craig was reunited with a junior high school friend, Francie, and the two were married in 2000. Having a background in marketing and PR, Francie was the perfect fit to join the Bryan-Braker family and help establish the business to what it is today.

Bryan-Braker Funeral Home is more than a funeral home; they are a part of the community. Both Craig and Francie enjoy being a part of the community and have done some pretty amazing things over the years.

Craig is a proud Rotarian and has participated in international trips to Mexico where they took ambulances, fire trucks and dental equipment down there. Right now they are working with cities to help remove playgrounds that are no longer ADA compliant and moving the structures to Mexico for the kids to play on. “The kids love them and they get another ten to fifteen years of use,” Craig said.

He also had a big hand in building the skate park in Fairfield, he chartered the Fairfield-Suisun Twilight Rotary Club, is a member of the Elks, Masonic Lodge, both Fairfield and Vacaville Chamber’s of Commerce and was a part of starting the first Wine and Food Jubilee that still supports NorthBay Healthcare to this day.

“The fundraiser may have started as a Fairfield-Suisun noon club Rotary event but the funds were always intended on supporting NorthBay Healthcare Hospice,” Craig stated.

Bryan-Braker has been a sponsor of the Wine and Food Jubliee for thirty-one years and after being on NorthBay’s board for a few years he was the Chairman of this year’s event.

Along with being the food chair for the Wine and Food Jubliee, Francie is also a Soroptimist of Central Solano County member as well as 100 Women of Solano County and LeTip of Vacaville.

In 2010, Craig was visiting Pacific Hardware on Merchant street when he saw a for lease sign in a nearby window. Wanting to have a Vacaville location, he called the number on the sign and a few months later they were able to open their location at 615 Merchant Street. Though the location is by appointment only right now, they have plans in the near future for the location.

Between Craig and Francie, they have three grown children and a few years ago, Craig’s daughter, Jenna, decided to follow in her father’s footsteps, literally. She too had no intention of working the family business or being involved in the Funeral world but after attending college at San Francisco State in Marketing and Communications the opportunity was there and once again was a perfect fit.

“Having Jenna join us has really helped me step back from the day-to-day business dealings and really focus on the expansion of Fairmont Memorial Park,” Craig said.

Running a funeral home isn’t a job for everyone. Every person who walks through your door is dealing with the unimaginable and it takes a special someone to be able to do what the Bryan family does.

“It’s a nice platform to be able to be of service to people when they’re going through this grieving process in their time of need. A lot of people haven’t set up a service so they look to me and our other directors as their guiding light. It takes a special person to be a funeral director and we have some amazing staff here that are able to find the balance between professionalism and compassion and we get a lot of positive feedback,” said Jenna. “If you’re ever having a bad day it helps to put things in perspective and be of service to someone else.”

Bryan-Braker Funeral home is proud that they can help anyone in the community. Whether it’s pre-planned funerals or helping people who have never had a family member pass, they are here to help. Especially when it comes to the different cultures.

“That was one thing that I admired of my father, his goal was to always be the funeral service provider who was able to handle all faiths and not fall into a pattern of always doing a certain religion. We truly strive to make the service as unique as the individual,” Craig said.

As a staple member of Solano County, Bryan-Braker Funeral Home employs nineteen full-time employees and five part-time employees.

“We love Vacaville and this entire area and are proud to be members of this community,” Francie stated with a smile on her face.