

# WAYS TO REMEMBER

## *Personalizing the funeral*

### ONCE UPON A LIFETIME...

The places and things associated with our lives can play an important part in the value of a funeral service. Families in sorrow know that the loved one they have lost was not just a military, veteran, or a gardener, or a teacher. Each of us has many facets to our lives. When you plan a funeral, consider adding personal touches that tell the wonderful story of the life that has been lived.

### Personalizing The Service

There is much more you can do to personalize a service than simply engraving a loved one's name on a bronze plaque. When you add personal touches to a memorial service, viewing, or simple gatherings you help those in attendance to know the person better. Photos and personal items help us remember everything a person was. And you can choose just how much, or how little, personalization you wish to include. Many deeply personal things you can do are actually the simplest and most time-honored.

### We Can Help

Our funeral homes makes great efforts to assist you with all your personalization needs. Whether it's handling time constraints, coming up with ways to personalize the service, or knowing what will be widely accepted, trust us to guide you.



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

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[info@cremationoptions.com](mailto:info@cremationoptions.com)

### YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS...

Below are some answers to frequently asked questions. If you don't find the answer here, please feel free to speak with us about any of your questions or concerns.

#### **Does personalization cost more?**

Most of the ways you personalize cost nothing. Memory tables, eulogies, special verse, etc. are priceless ways to pay tribute to the deceased. There may be additional cost for engraving or special services, but it is minimal compared to the way it enhances the entire service.

## WAYS TO HONOR THE MEMORY...

### Create A Memorial Folder

Programs with a poem or a verse of comfort are often handed out at services. We can help you conceive a more intimate memorial folder that includes pictures, statements, favorite verses, and achievements.

### Display Personal Belongings

Even the simplest mementos such as a coin collection, an apron, or a set of monogrammed cuff links provide remembrance and comfort during the service. Artwork, a photo collage, awards, and other personal items help people understand that the person who died enjoyed many interest.

### Select A Unique Casket Or Vault

Caskets in various price ranges are now available, with designs that provide deep associations with the life you are commemorating. Crafted from various kinds of materials, they may be engraved with the person's name and symbols or artwork associated with a college, service organization, or branch of the military. Interior panels may contain photographs, paintings, or needlework that represent the things important to the person who has died. The hardware and other accents, too, can represent various themes such as the life of an outdoors person, a military veteran, or a wife and mother. Personalized caskets and vaults are available in many price ranges, fabrications, and colors.

### Choose A Memorable Urn

Symbolic urns are now made in hundreds of designs, and many are true works of art. Whether you choose permanent possession of the cremated remains, or whether the urn is to be interred in a columbarium or niche, the urn can be a touching symbol of the life that has been lived. Engravings or artwork on an urn might depict outdoor scenes, religious imagery, and other images of the person's occupation, hobbies, or interests.

## YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS...

*(continued)*

### Do I have to personalize the service?

The level of personalization you choose is entirely up to you. You can include as much or as little as you wish. Often people don't see the value until they understand the choices. Now, more than in the past, the choice is yours.



### What if I have an unusual request?

With our diverse experiences, we offer guidance with any idea, no matter how out-of-the-ordinary. Some wish to be buried in their favorite bowling shirt or jersey. Others have very unique wishes such as nature lovers wanting to be part of a living ocean reef and firemen wanting their fire engine parts of the service. We do everything we can to help you incorporate the things that hold meaning for you.

### Will personalization make the service too overwhelming? Will people think it's strange?

Not necessarily. You want people to know about the life of the person who has died. You will be the best judge of the amount of detail you want to include.

## **Involve Friends**

Having close friends say a few words and share some memories is a valuable personal touch. A special poem, quote, or passage could be read that was meaningful to the person who died.

## **Play Special Music**

Each of us has "our song". A person's favorite music is always welcome during a memorial service. Perhaps the loved one had a favorite popular song or church hymn that could be played in his or her honor.

## **Show a Tribute Video**

Gather precious photos to create a videotape presentation with musical accompaniment to show during the service

## **Dedicate Memorials**

Planting a tree, erecting a statue, or dedicating a fountain can help a loved one's memory live on. If the deceased has a favorite scenic location, dedicate a bench so the view can be shared with family and friends.

## **The Time Is Now**

Have you ever tried to write a family history? Planning to personalize your funeral is much the same process and can be as simple or detailed as you wish. It's like organizing a scrapbook of your life. On the most basic level, you might start thinking about it and jotting down a few notes. It doesn't have to take a lot of time.

## **The Value Of Preplanning**

You may wish to preplan your funeral completely and make your final wishes known to your family in advance. Making these decisions beforehand is the most compassionate thing you can do for your family, relieving them of a burden at a difficult time. Preplanning also soothes your worries about your service being exactly the way you want it to be.

## **YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS...**

*(continued)*

**Will my pastor or clergy object?  
Will it take away from the  
religious aspects of the services?**

Some religions require certain rituals and observances at a funeral, and even the religion you practice may have stipulations you do not know about. We are familiar with many religious customs and will work with all clergy to ensure your personalization wishes fit with religious observances.

# PERSONALIZING YOUR OWN FUNERAL

*All About Me...*

**Hobbies:**

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**Personal belongings to be displayed:**

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**Persons to be notified:**

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**Location of funeral:**

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**Special request:**

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**Favorite songs:**

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**Favorite verses:**

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**Locations of important documents:**

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**Flowers:**

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**People to speak:**

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**Food to serve:**

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**Jewelry and clothing:**

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**Memorialization requests:**

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**Type of service:**

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## Preplanning now,,,

- ✘ Allows you to specify the level of personalization you desire.
- ✘ Enables you to choose the products and cost that are right for you.
- ✘ Eases your family's burden during a difficult time.
- ✘ Give you time to recall, organize, and contemplate your thoughts and wishes.
- ✘ Helps the younger members of your family understand who you are.
- ✘ Allows you to lock in today's prices and avoid future price increases.



*"We can help you remember  
the story of a lifetime."*