

Helping you make the service personal is one of the many ways we serve families.

At our funeral home, we've never performed two services that were exactly alike. Then again, we've never met two people who were exactly alike either. Though our role as funeral directors is to make sure every service is memorable, our commitment to you is to ensure that the one we perform for your family is unique and special.

You may be wondering how we do this. Many of the families we serve choose to make advance arrangements, which means we already have specific requests on file. When there are no prearrangements, we take the time to get to know the person who has passed on by spending time with family members and friends. Once we understand who the person was, we can make recommendations and suggestions for adding a personal touch to the service.

When you make arrangements with us, rest assured you need not worry about unusual requests. In fact, we welcome your input and are happy to help you work out all the details. In most cases, there is no additional charge for personalization, and if there happens to be, you'll find the fees to be minimal.

If you have questions regarding the funeral or ways to personalize the service, please call us and ask to speak with one of our directors. Place your trust in us and you're guaranteed a service to remember.

If you know your loved one's life, you know how to personalize the service.

With so many ways to personalize the service, how do you determine which methods best represent your loved one's wishes? The simplest approach is to take a look at his or her life and remember what values and beliefs were most prevalent. The values your loved one held closely during their lifetime is a sign of what they would have wanted during the service. Here are a few concepts to keep in mind when personalizing your loved one's service:

Religious Beliefs When one abides by certain religious beliefs throughout life, it's important to acknowledge this connection when personalizing the service.

Relationship with Culture Culture often links family and friends together. By keeping one's cultural beliefs in mind, you bring out a lifetime of dedication.

Lifelong Hobbies Photography, poetry, collections—hobbies provide a great deal of insight into your loved one's life. Look to these items to personalize the service.

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MAKING
it
PERSONAL

*A Guide to
Remembering a Life
the Way It Was Lived*

A LIFE IS LIKE
AN OPEN BOOK;

Read it aloud

Suggestions and ideas for making the funeral service memorable, personal and truly reflective of your loved one.



Tell the story.

One of the most special ways to remember a person who has passed away is to have beloved friends and relatives tell stories about their experiences with that person.

Sometimes humorous, sometimes touching, yet always enlightening, these stories are forever appreciated by the immediate family and are helpful in the healing process.

A tribute to see and touch.

Maybe he was a golfer or a little league coach. Perhaps she enjoyed the opera or tap dancing. Why not consider using his favorite putter, her program guide from La Traviata, her worn out tap shoes or his lucky bat for an added personal touch? All these special items can easily become part of the ceremony and truly make a difference to those who shared a passion for these activities.

A gift of music touches the heart.

The music played at a funeral need not be traditional. Most people have a certain style of music they prefer. Many even have a favorite song. Why not ask a family member, the church choir or the school chorus to honor your loved one with a particular song? Or, simply provide us with a favorite CD or tape and all in attendance can take comfort in the familiarity of the music.

A reflection of their personal flair.

Don't overlook the casket as a means for personalization. With our wide selection of caskets you can select from a variety of shapes and sizes. There are woods and metals; some are ornate, some less adorned. Even beyond the basics, there are unique options for decorating the casket. We offer personalized panels, custom corners and a variety of interiors all designed to reflect the personal tastes of your loved one. For cremation, we offer everything from basic cremation containers to keepsake urns. Depending on the type of service you select, we can assist you in making a choice that is meaningful and fits comfortably within your budget.

Making it even more special.

Families often have photographs of their loved ones at special events, on family vacations, during the holidays, etc. In addition, technology has enabled many of us to put together home videos and presentations featuring family and friends. These visual memories work well in enhancing the service and inviting an atmosphere of reminiscing and sharing.

Planning is preferred.

Do you have any special preferences for your service? Do your family and friends know where to find it? Chances are they do, but remember, during a time of great stress, it may be hard for them to put their hands on the information. The single best way to ensure your special requests will be carried out is to make advance arrangements with your funeral home of choice. Although a will is very important, it's typically not sufficient in assisting with funeral planning. At our funeral home, we make it simple to make funeral prearrangements by taking the time to present all your options and making recommendations based on your personality and preferences. We'll record each of your wishes and graciously keep them on file for safekeeping. It costs you nothing to make arrangements with us, though many families opt to also prepay for the services, ensuring the funds will be there when needed.