

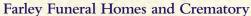


"Show me the manner in which a nation cares for its dead and I will measure with mathematical exactness the tender mercies of its people, their respect for the laws of the land and their loyalty to high ideals."

- Sir William Gladstone







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Venice Memorial Gardens 1950 Center Road Venice, FL 34292 (941) 493-4246 www.venicememorialgardens.com

Family Owned and Operated Since 1932

We believe that our primary purpose is to provide caring service to our community. We believe that excellence, professionalism, integrity, independence and fairness are necessary ingredients to building a relationship of trust.

Excellence

Success measures itself by the standards of others: *Excellence sets the standards to which others aspire*.

Professionalism

True professionalism goes beyond the bottom line. It is a constant reaffirmation of a simple value: *Care as much for others as you would care for yourself.*

Integrity

The quality of our relationships with others is guided by integrity: *Money can't buy it, power can't corrupt it, fear can't spoil it. It is a simple, hard-headed devotion to what is right.*

Independence

Family-owned businesses have a vested interest in serving the community where they live and work: We believe in families serving families and neighbors serving neighbors.

Fairness

Fairness in human relations occurs as a direct result of a fundamental belief: *That respect for the individual is the key factor in quality of service.*



Our Pledge to You

Regardless of your preferences, traditions or customs, we pledge to provide you with all of your options in a clear, precise manner. We are here to serve you and your family.

Whether your preference is a traditional casketed burial or entombment, cremation or transfer to an out-of-town funeral home, we have the staff, facilities and equipment required to fulfill all of your wishes.

Where to Turn ...

Our licensed professionals will be available to explain all of your options regarding appropriate arrangements for you and your family.

No request is too large or too small. It is very important that the arrangements selected by you properly reflect your wishes. It is equally important to us that the services and tributes selected are as unique as the individual. Our services and guidance typically cover:

Arrangement Conference

Planning a meaningful tribute.

Concierge Services

Planning and coordination of airfare, meals, lodging, transportation, etc.

Visitation and/or Viewing

Sharing the death with family and friends.

Funeral, Memorial Gathering or other Life Tribute

Paying tribute to the life lived.

Committal Service

Gathering for final goodbyes at the cemetery or memorial garden.

Reception

Planning and coordination of location and menu options.

Permanent Memorialization

Building a focal point for memories.

Aftercare

Post-service follow-up and review of grief support resources.



Our Staff and Facilities

Regardless of which location you choose, you will find our facilities modern, clean and meticulously maintained.

Our staff is trained, professional, courteous and compassionate.

All of our facilities are convenient and equipped with multiple viewing, visitation and services areas. It is our goal to provide services when they are appropriate and convenient for you and your family.



The Importance of Viewing and Visitation

The viewing and visitation (also called the wake or calling hours) are gatherings of family and friends who help survivors in acknowledging the reality of the death that has occurred. These gatherings can occur in the funeral home's facilities, church, home of the family or other meaningful place (where permitted). Both viewings and visitations are available regardless of whether there will be a burial, entombment or cremation. Research supports the notion that both a viewing and visitation helps fulfill the psychological needs of those who are left behind.

Viewing

Seeing the body of a loved one may be one of the most important steps in moving toward the acceptance of the loss. Viewing the body of a loved one is a very personal decision family members need to consider. There are some people who do not need to see the body of those they love to work through their grief. However, a significantly high number of people have shown great difficulty in coming to terms with the death when they have not viewed the body.

Viewings can be private or open to family and friends. Regardless of your preference, we will assist you in making sure that all your expectations are met.

Visitation

Like viewings, visitations serve a critical role for the survivors. Visitations allow family and friends to gather and support the mourners of the deceased. Visitations also allow time for family and friends to share memories and celebrate the life of a loved one. Visitations may be limited to only those invited or can be announced in an obituary.

Both viewings and visitations are typically held the day before the funeral or memorial gathering, but may also occur on the same day. For your convenience, our facilities are available every day of the year.



The Purpose of Paying Tribute to the Life Lived

Funerals and memorial gatherings are tributes to the life lived and play an important role for those mourning the loss of a loved one. These tributes provide family members and friends a caring, supportive environment in which to share thoughts and feelings about the life of the loved one. All types of tribute options are available regardless of whether there will be a burial, entombment or cremation.

The attendance and/or participation in a funeral or memorial gathering provides many benefits including:

- Providing a forum for family and friends to celebrate the life of their loved one
- Providing a social support system for the bereaved
- Helping the bereaved understand death is final and that death is part of life
- Easing the transition to a new life after the death of a loved one
- Providing a safe haven for embracing and expressing pain
- Reaffirming one's relationship with the person who died
- Providing a time to say goodbye

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INTRODUCTION

Helping Children Cope with the Death

Death is a difficult concept for everyone. Most of us are at a loss for words and find it very difficult to openly discuss what has happened. For these reasons, it is important that special attention be given to the children and their involvement.

Death is a natural event. While most of us would prefer to think that children do not understand the concept of death, they do have an awareness of its presence in everyday life. As they grow, their lives are full of experiences associated with death. Whether it be the death of a plant, pet or person, they are witnessing the "cycle of life" more than we think. For these reasons, it is important to confront the reality of death when it enters their lives.

Including children

Some examples of including children are:

- Explain what has happened and what will take place. Share with them the viewing, funeral and/or cremation information.
- Encourage them, when appropriate, to take part. Let them read a poem, share a memory, draw a picture or light a candle.
- Accept their way of dealing with the death. Depending on the age and circumstances, no two children will deal with the death the same way.

Including children is very important and we can assist you with additional information regarding this subject.



"When a person is born, we rejoice. When they are married, we celebrate. When they die, we pretend nothing happened."

- Margaret Mead

Sharing the Loss...

The world we live in is very different today than it has been in past generations. Our society is highly mobile with family and friends living hundreds, if not thousands, of miles away.

Unfortunately, the reality is that some family and friends may not be able to attend the service. There are a number of ways for those who cannot attend to take part in the remembrance of the life lived.

We have developed a number of offerings that allow these family and friends to pay tribute and experience the remembrance of the individual. These offerings include:

Online Obituaries

Through our website, we can provide an online obituary for all families seeking one.

Online Condolences

For private expressions, all family and friends with internet access can view the obituary and post private condolences which are collected by us and delivered to the family.

Online Guestbook

For public expressions, family and friends can sign the guestbook associated with the online obituary.

Video Tributes

Our staff prepares these by incorporating your photographs into a digital video. The video is complemented by music (a list of music is available) and can be viewed during visitations, gatherings and services. All pictures will be returned to you after the tribute is completed. Video tributes are offered in the memorial package and can be uploaded to the online obituary or placed on a disc for mailing to distant family and friends.

Video/Audio Service Recording

The most intimate option to share with family and friends involves an actual recording of the tribute. Services at the funeral home, church or graveside committal can be recorded and placed on a disc for viewing by those unable to attend.



Venice Memorial Gardens

From the shade offered by its grand oaks, to the peaceful beauty of wildlife strolling through its gardens, our memorial park offers a quiet, serene and natural setting for visitation. You will notice water features and find our manicured gardens well maintained.

Families trust Venice Memorial Gardens to care for them in a dignified manner. A uniformed staff of courteous grounds personnel and a caring office staff help preserve this sacred trust in a time of need.

Many families take comfort in knowing that Venice Memorial Gardens is a dedicated cemetery regulated by the state of Florida. This, along with a unique Care and Maintenance Guarantee, assures that the standards and practices used today will continue in perpetuity.



The Purpose of Creating a Permanent Memorial

Why is having a place to visit so important?

Having a place to visit provides a focal point for memorializing the deceased. To remember, and be remembered, are natural human needs. Throughout history, memorialization of the dead has been a key component of almost every culture. The Washington Monument, Tomb of the Unknowns and Vietnam "Wall" in Washington, D.C., are examples of memorialization which demonstrate that, throughout our history, we have always honored our dead. Psychologists say that remembrance practices, from the funeral or memorial gathering to permanent memorialization, serve an important emotional function for survivors by helping to bring closure and allowing the healing process to begin. Providing a permanent resting place for the deceased is a dignified treatment for a loved one's mortal remains. Regardless of whether there will be a burial, entombment or cremation, there are many options available for creating a fitting memorial.

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