

Personalizing the Service

A funeral or memorial gathering is so much more than a way to say goodbye; it is an opportunity to celebrate and honor the life of someone special.

Today, a funeral can be as unique as the individual who is being honored. From simple touches like displaying personal photographs to events created around a favorite pastime, funerals and memorial gatherings can reflect any aspect of a person's life and personality.

Listed below are questions you can use to help personalize a funeral or memorial gathering:

What did they like to do?

What were they like as an individual?

What were their hobbies?

What were they like as a professional?

What special relationships did they have?

Were they spiritual?

Were they proud of their heritage?

Were they a veteran?

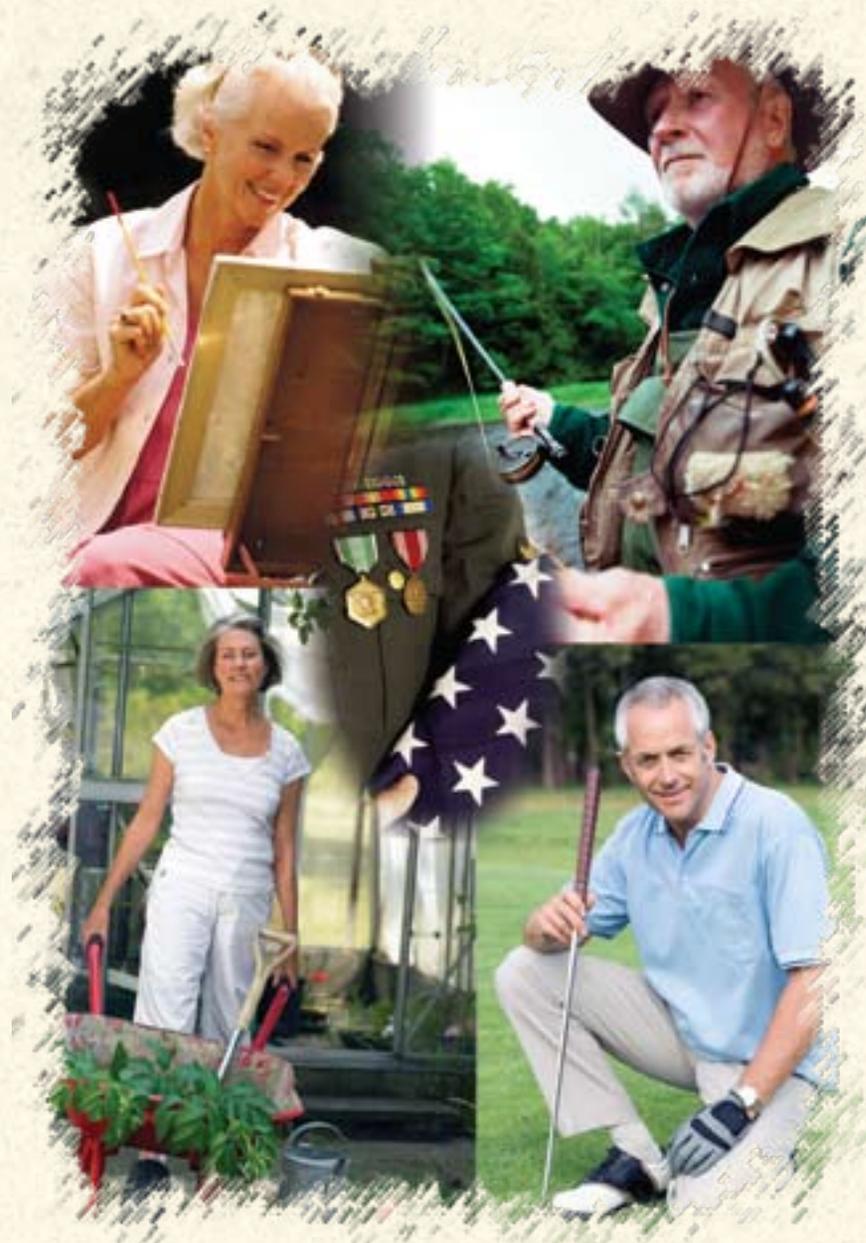
What made them smile?

What made them laugh?

Did they have any pets?

What made them unique?

Did they have a favorite sports team?



Personalizing the Service

We have guided thousands of families in planning meaningful and memorable tributes. These experiences have provided us with the following ways to make the funeral or memorial gathering more meaningful:

Create a memorial folder, photo collage or memorial portrait

Display personal belongings on a memory table or around the casket or urn

Involve family and friends

Read a poem that touches on their key beliefs

Light a candle as part of the ceremony

Prepare and read a eulogy (we can assist you with this)

Take part as pallbearers

Play special music

Did they play an instrument?

What was their favorite music?

Is there a song that symbolized a special moment or belief?

Show a video tribute

Choose a personalized casket or urn

Arrange for a dove release, butterfly release or bagpipes

Following are ideas on how to incorporate spirituality into a funeral or memorial gathering:

Hold the service at the person's parish or religious facility

Have someone read excerpts from a key religious publication (i.e. Bible, Koran, etc.)

Decorate the funeral home with symbols of the person's faith

Read a prayer that touches on their key beliefs

Include sacred music from their religion in the service



Bagpipes can be played at the funeral home, cemetery or other place of gathering

Choosing a Casket

A casket that reflects the personality and interests of a loved one can be the family's final tribute to a life well lived. For this reason, caskets are available in a wide variety of materials and designs that can help make the selection truly personal. Many caskets can be customized with embroidered tribute panels and **LifeSymbols®** designs. When choosing a casket, consider the following:

Material

Metal caskets are available in bronze, stainless steel and regular steel.

Wood caskets are available in mahogany, cherry, maple, oak and poplar.

Finish

Metal caskets are available in painted or brushed finishes.

Wood caskets are available in satin or hand-rubbed gloss finishes.

Design

Metal and wood caskets are available with straight sides and square corners, or curved sides and round corners. Additional options include the use of **LifeSymbols®** Corners (see pages 29-30).

Metal and wood caskets are available with stationary handles or swingbar handles.

Interior

Metal and wood caskets are available with crepe or velvet interiors.

Gaskets

Rubber gaskets are constructed to resist the intrusion of outside elements into the casket. Gaskets are located between the base of the casket and its lid. Gaskets are found on most metal caskets but not on wood caskets.

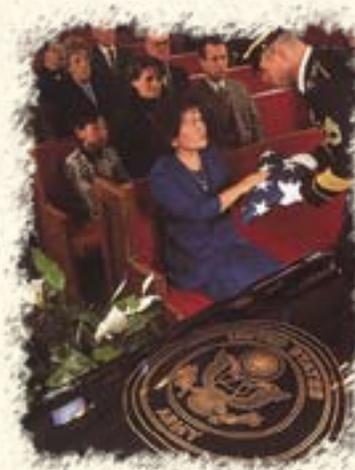
Due to space constraints, there are many available caskets not shown in this compendium. Should you desire something not shown, please consult us for additional options.

Additional Casket Features

Permanent identification of the casket is achieved through the Memorial Record™ System.



Engraving of the casket lid provides a unique opportunity for additional personalization.



The MemorySafe Drawer® provides for dignified display or placement of letters and other mementos.



*Embroidered panels, overthrows and **LifeSymbols®** Corners (pictured to the left) provide additional opportunities for customization.*

