

CALLIDE DAWSON

FUNERALS

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GUIDE LINES FOR A EULOGY

- A gift you can share



How to Start:

- ◆ A brief introduction of yourself and where you fitted into the person's life
- ◆ General rule for length of time for a eulogy is 3-4 minutes
- ◆ When and where was deceased born
- ◆ Nicknames and/or names known to others
- ◆ Parent's names
- ◆ Brothers and sisters and place in the family
- ◆ Where did he/she grow up
- ◆ Early childhood, possibly some funny/interesting experiences when growing up
- ◆ Schools attended, awards gained
- ◆ Preferences, likes or dislikes
- ◆ Special sayings, stories, qualities
- ◆ Academic or trade qualifications and achievements
- ◆ Details of any war or military service
- ◆ Details of marriages, divorces, children, significant relationships
- ◆ Details of grandchildren and great grandchildren
- ◆ Details of any club memberships, positions held
- ◆ Details of sporting achievements
- ◆ Details of any hobbies, interests, travel, crafts
- ◆ Details of historical significance
- ◆ Is there a special poem or a verse you may like included within the service

Helpful Hints for Writing

1. Write as though you are talking to a friend, for that is what you will be doing—talking to a loving, supportive group.
2. Compose your speech on a computer if possible so you can edit along the way
3. Look back through photo albums, this may invoke precious memories of the person who died that you would like to share with others.
4. Don't be afraid to use humour where appropriate. Remember, the eulogy is a celebration of the life of your loved one.
5. You may want to use a special quote to open or close your speech. Look to poetry, songs, and historical speeches for inspiration.
6. Once you have completed your first draft, ask a trusted friend or family member to read it over and suggest any changes.
7. When you are happy with your speech, type or write it out in large print with spaces between the lines so it is easy to read.
8. Public speaking can be frightening. You need to be brave. Know that its okay to make mistakes. No one expects you to be a great speaker and certainly not at this difficult time.



POSSIBLE EXTRAS YOU MAY LIKE INCLUDED WITHIN THE SERVICE

- ◆ Photo to be placed on coffin or sign-in table
- ◆ Special music you may like played at the service
- ◆ If a burial is chosen, you may like to provide a flower or flower petals to place in the grave at the end of the committal service at the graveside.

A funeral service is a tribute and celebration of the life of a loved one. Therefore the service should reflect who that person was and what they meant to family and friends.

This is only a guide to planning the eulogy and the service you might like for your loved one. Please do not hesitate to ask your Funeral Director for anything you may wish to have included within your special tribute.

Some eulogies can be 5 to 10 minutes in length. While this may seem like a long period of time (and a lot to write), you will find the time is easy to fill, and quick to pass.

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