Toni: Ola. We have come here together today to honor and celebrate the life of Eduardo Pareja Pedraza. We are also here to express our gratitude for Eduardo’s gift of love & friendship and to share our love with his family – many of whom have flown in from Australia, Colombia and Miami and with one another. We are here to express our caring in this time of earthly loss.

This place where we stand together is a holy place. I speak these words for Eduardo and for each of us, I know that there is one Power and Presence in the Universe, and it is right here where we gather this afternoon in love – the love that we all express and feel for Eduardo whose life we are honoring. We are drawn together in love.

And, perhaps of greatest importance, we are here to deepen our awareness of life is eternal and immortal and to affirm our faith in God and in the Good that we know is in store for Eduardo now.

Let us lift our spirits as we come today to celebrate Eduardo’s life!
I’d like you all to take a moment and bring Eduardo’s spirit to your consciousness. Because no one got to say goodbye - there might have been something more you wanted to say… Take a moment now in silence to speak those words to him…

For his Spirit is always present to us...

And, now take a moment and listen to the words he might have said in return...

I’d like to share a poem by Pete Gray.

Don’t cry for me. There is no need.

IF you did not say you loved me often…

I saw it in your eyes, Felt it in your touch,

Sensed it in our times together, even in the rush of Busyness

If I did not pledge my love enough...Forgive me.

The love was always there. Even when we were apart.

Even when we disagreed, I thought you always knew.

Don’t cry for me.

I chose this life to learn and play, and life’s been full

Of such a wealth of times. Of joy, of growth, laughter and pain. Experience upon experience… To overflow the memory, And overwhelm the mind. I would not change a day of it Except to say “I Love you” one more time.

Don’t cry for me… For where I’ve gone

IT is my choice to go. My task is done, my lessons learned, My
heart at peace.

So laugh with me, and raise a toast, and tell a joke.

And soon, your lessons learned, Your task complete,

We’ll pledge our love again.

Music – REMEMBER ME

Toni: I haven’t seen Eduardo in years but he is someone I always remembered – I remember his commitment to his spiritual life and to his own and others personal growth and development. I remember the amazing Mexican food he cooked in his restaurant and often shared in meetings we had and the rides I took with him to and from the airport. I especially remember his warmth and his smile and the way he always made me feel so special when I was in his presence.

I know that many of you have many fond memories of Eduardo.

I believe that was Eduardo’s legacy to all of us... and here to give the Eulogy and tell us more about is life, is his sister, Patricia

Toni: Now I’d like to invite you to give some thoughts to our own personal relationship with Eduardo and to express your gratitude for the gift of himself that he gave to each of you.

What gift did Eduardo give to you that no other human being could have given? I know that everyone here comes from different parts of Eduardo’s life with different memories of the gift of his life.

Sharing these stories is a powerful way to begin healing any sense of grief we may have. Is there anyone else who wishes to share – SHARING –
**Emma his mother – wishes to speak at this point.**

**Here is where we can show the video and the violist will perform.**

Hallelujia...

Let us now close our eyes and see with the inner eye of Spirit beyond the limited horizon of our physical sight.

Now, as we recognize the Truth about Eduardo and about ourselves, we can see that he is, indeed, himself . . . that he is filled with love and joy and life in a new experience. And so we pray.

Infinite Presence, as we open our awareness to the spiritual truth that the life in all of us is One Life, we recognize your Loving Presence in and around us.

We know that you are blessing us right now, giving us all the love, strength and wisdom we need at this moment.

Your Presence unites us. We are one with You, one with each other, one with Eduardo.

We accept your glorious love. It sustains us all. It give us the insight we need to realize that Spirit is the truth of each of us.

It gives us the assurance that even though the Spirit changes form, it does not die.
We know that our oneness with You is the absolute truth, and this truth is revealed in our hearts, right now.

Infinite, Loving Spirit, we accept your wisdom to teach us the Truth. We accept your love to fill our hearts and comfort us in our human grief. We accept our oneness with you, with our beloved Eduardo, and with All Good, now and forever. And with these words we are at PEACE – and we share that blessing of Peace with our World.

I invite you all in your own hearts to pray a prayer for Peace.

After we share our closing song, the family would like to invite all of you to the fellowship hall to share some refreshments and to continue the celebration of Eduardo’s life.

Continue reading Sudden Death »

Care to leave a comment? »

- Filed under:
  - Memorials

Memorial for a Parent or Family Member

- Posted on November 12, 2014 at 12:39 pm
- Edit
We have gathered today to join together in a celebration of life for Betty Clark. Those of us who knew Betty in this life frame know that she looked at life as a celebration, as a joy and as a blessing.

INVOCATION

We come together today in both sorrow and joy. The sorrow is the loss of someone so close. The joy is the knowing the truth – that there is one Source – we often call this universal source God – it is the infinite oneness.

As I know this is true – I know that I am one with the Source
– I know that I am birthless, I am deathless, I am ageless, and I am eternal. As I know this is true for me I know that it is true for all of humanity, and today I especially recognize that truth for Betty.

As we celebrate the beautiful life of Betty Clark today, I remember the words of Ernest Holmes, “the human experience of dying is but laying off an old garment and the donning of a new one.”

So let us join together today in a day of fond memories, celebration and love.

And so it is – – and so it is.

Music Inspiration

Beautiful in My Eyes by Joshua Kadison

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YyMJ5hFkiyo

As we consider the life of Betty Clark, my mother, I am drawn to the poem, The Dash by Linda Ellis. It reads as follows:

THE DASH

Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak

At the funeral of a friend.

He referred to the dates on her tombstone

From the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came her date of birth
And spoke the following date with tears, 1964 – 1994.
But he said what mattered most of all
Was the dash between those years.

For that dash represents all the time
That she spent alive on earth.
And now only those who loved her
Know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not, how much we own,
The cars, the house, the cash.
What matters is how we live and love
And how we spend our dash.

So think about this long and hard.
Are there things you’d like to change?
For you never know how much time is left,
That can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough
To consider what’s true and real,
And always try to understand
The way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger,
And show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives
Like we’ve never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect,
And more often wear a smile,
Remembering that this special dash
Might only last a little while.

So, when your eulogy’s being read
With your life’s actions to rehash,
Would you be proud of the things they say
About how you spent your dash?

Our collective awareness is one of love for someone that we love so much and that we have loved so well over the years as her spirit moves on to its next stage of her soul’s journey. We are missing her physical presence among us, the wrapping of her soul, and for that reason we are the ones that have the feeling of grief and pain from our loss on this plane.

We know that Betty has moved on to what we choose to call a “better place”. It is those of us left behind who live in and share the human emotion of profound loss. We, however, know that as long as we have our beautiful memories of Betty that she is still here in our hearts. We honor Betty’s life and begin to heal our sense of loss by looking at the wonderful example Betty gave us of how to live the dash in her life.
Mom, a photograph, a conversation with friends or family, a smell of food or perfume, or a piece of music – are all things that will bring the essence of you flooding back to us. But, the truth is, we do not need these things for wherever your soul may have passed on to, the essence of you is in each of our hearts forever.

Although mom was never overtly religious, from the time I was a little boy I remember the Unity “Daily Word” Magazine on her nightstand. After mom passed, and I was going through her private bookshelf, I found a number of Science of Mind and new thought books that had obviously been well read, marked in and dog-eared.

One quote that mom had marked in “Science of Mind” is “If the soul can create and sustain a body here, there is no reason to deny its ability to create and sustain one hereafter.” I also noticed that mom’s Bible obviously had been well used. One place that was not only earmarked but had a brilliant gold highlight down the side of the page was the Twenty-Third Psalm.

Elizabeth, mom’s namesake, has asked to read the Twenty-Third Psalm for her grandmother from her grandmother’s Bible.

Reading of the Twenty-Third Psalm

Elizabeth Clark Ewing

Musical Interlude

You Raise Me Up by Celtic Woman

EULOGY

David Clark
My brother David has asked to do the eulogy for our mother. After David speaks if anyone in the room would like to speak briefly about mom, please come forward to the microphone. We ask that you please limit your comments to no more than a minute.

(As David comes up – and I moved to sit down – I give him a hug and say, “thank you David.” After David speaks, I would again say, “thank you David” as I return to the podium to resume my duties as the Officiant. An usher will move through the assembled guests with a microphone. It now becomes my very delicate job to not only recognize people that wish to speak, but to make sure that the comments are loving and complete and do not go on forever.

When it is time to complete this portion of the service I will say, “It is time that we must move on. I want to thank everyone for their words — for their love.”

READING Joni Clark

Joni has a poem that she would like to read for her grandmother:

Remember me with smiles not tears, for all the joy through the years.

Don’t dwell on thoughts that cause you pain; we’ll see each other once again.

I am at peace, try to believe, it was my time, I had to leave.

But “what a view” I have from here. I see your face, I feel you near,

I follow you throughout the day. You’re not alone along the way.

And when God calls you, you will be right by my side,
Right here with me.

Musical Inspiration

Time to Say Good-Bye by Andrea Bocelli and Sara Brightman

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWQbuJ24Wzg

Although we are not Roman Catholic, all of us in the Clark family have gotten to know Father Vincent Clemente not only as a friend but as a virtual family member. Vincent – Father Clemente, we are honored that you are going to give the benediction for us today.

BENEDICTION Father Clemente

At the end of the benediction Father Clemente will invite all those present to join in the Fellowship Hall for a small snack and to share lots of beautiful memories.

MUSICAL POSTLUDE

Continue reading Memorial for a Parent or Family Member »

Care to leave a comment? »

- Filed under:
  - Sample Memorials

Memorial for Two People

- Posted on November 12, 2014 at 12:21 pm
- Edit

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR TWO

This is a special use Memorial service.
Although it seems so unlikely that anyone would ever use it, I have used it twice and I know three acquaintances that have also used it.

It is for two people – a husband and wife or partners that have made their transition within a very short time of each other. It is a memorial service that is done for the two of them together.

It is usually a small intimate service for family and just a few friends.

We had actually done a memorial service for my father. At this time my mother had severe dementia and passed four months later. Two months after that when the family could get together we used this service. My folks had been married 67 years.

Here in Florida there are many retired – older couples and often when one of them passes the other passes soon after. Also these people are not living where their original homes were and the number of friends and family are quite often relatively small; yet family and friends want a memorial service.

The structure of the service is what is unusual and nearly any wording and music can be put with it.

Two flowers, usually carnations, one red one white are tied together with a heavy piece of grass (biodegradable). Tied to this is a piece of paper about 1” x 3” also biodegradable (rice paper will work). These small bouquets are going to be thrown into the water during the service.

Those in attendance (since this service is usually by invitation they will be known ahead of time) will be given a bouquet of the two flowers, the small note tied to the flowers will have the names of those who passed – but the names will be specific to the person who has the flowers. Examples of
this would be: mom and dad, grandma and grandpa, Bill and Jean, Jean and Bill, uncle Bill and aunt Jean, Billy boy and Jean, Jean Louise and Bill, William and Jean, grandma and Popa Bill etc.

The service would be opened with an invocation or prayer and a statement that this is a celebration of the life for each and the two together.

Music could be played.

After this opening the officiant would invite each person to step up and speak to “these two people” calling them by the names they have always used to refer to them and which are now written on the paper. After they are done; either speaking to them or about them, they are to throw the small bouquet into the water.

This service would end as any normal memorial service would end.

We have thrown these into the water in various locations: into a bay off the Gulf of Mexico, a lake inland in Florida, a fast-moving stream near Vail Colorado and off of the back of the boat between California and Catalina Island.

This IS a special service but for those times when it would be appropriate it can be a beautiful service.

Continue reading Memorial for Two People »

Care to leave a comment? »

- Filed under:
  - Memorial for 2 people
The Traveler (FEMALE VERSION)

By James Dillet Freeman

She has put on invisibility.
Dear Lord, I cannot see—
But this I know, although the road ascends
And passes from my sight,
That there will be no night;
That You will take her gently by the hand
And lead her on
Along the road of life that never ends,
And she will find it is not death but dawn.
I do not doubt that You are there as here,
And You will hold her dear.

Our life did not begin with birth,
It is not of the earth;
And this that we call death, it is no more
Than the opening and closing of a door—
And in Your house how many rooms must be
Beyond this one where we rest momentarily.

Dear Lord, I thank You for the faith that frees,
The love that knows it cannot lose its own;
The love that, looking through the shadows, sees
That You and she and I are ever one!

Continue reading The Traveler »

Care to leave a comment? »

Filed under:

  • Memorial Stories
The Ship

Parable of Immortality

I am standing by the seashore.
A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze
and starts for the blue ocean.
She is an object of beauty and strength,
and I stand and watch
until at last she hangs like a peck of white cloud
just where the sun and sky come down to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says, ‘There she goes!’
Gone where? Gone from my sight…that is all.

She is just as large in mast and hull and spar
as she was when she left my side
and just as able to bear her load of living freight
to the places of destination.
Her diminished size is in me, not in her.

And just at the moment when someone at my side says,
‘There she goes!’
there are other eyes watching her coming,
and other voices ready to take up the glad shout:
‘Here she comes!’

by Henry Van Dyke
The Rose Still Grows Beyond the Wall

Near a shady wall a rose once grew,
Budded and blossomed in God’s free light,
Watered and fed by morning dew,
Shedding its sweetness day and night.

As it grew and blossomed fair and tall,
Slowly rising to loftier height,
It came to a crevice in the wall,
Through which there shone a beam of light.

Onward it crept with added strength,
With never a thought of fear or pride,
It followed the light through the crevice’s length,
And unfolded itself on the other side.

The light, the dew, the broadening view
Were found the same as they were before;
And it lost itself in beauties new,
Breathing its fragrance more and more.

Shall claim of death cause us to grieve,
And make our courage faint or fail?
Nay! Let us faith and hope receive:
The rose still grows beyond the wall.
Scattering fragrance far and wide,
Just as it did in days of yore,
Just as it did on the other side,
Just as it will for evermore.

by A. L. Frink

Continue reading The Rose Still Grows Beyond the Wall »

Care to leave a comment? »

- Filed under:
  - Memorial Stories

**Dragonfly Story**

- Posted on November 12, 2014 at 12:10 pm
  - Edit

The Dragonfly Story

Down below the surface of a quiet pond lived a little colony of water bugs. They were a happy colony, living far away from the sun. For many months they were very busy, scurrying over the soft mud on the bottom of the pond. They did notice that every once in awhile one of their colony seemed to lose interest in going about. Clinging to the stem of a pond lily it gradually moved out of sight and was seen no more.

“Look!” said one of the water bugs to another. “one of our colony is climbing up the lily stalk. Where do you think she is going?” Up, up, up it slowly went….Even as they watched, the water bug disappeared from sight. Its friends waited and waited but it didn’t return...
“That’s funny!” said one water bug to another. “Wasn’t she happy here?” asked a second... “Where do you suppose she went?” wondered a third.

No one had an answer. They were greatly puzzled. Finally one of the water bugs, a leader in the colony, gathered its friends together. “I have an idea”. “The next one of us who climbs up the lily stalk must promise to come back and tell us where he or she went and why.”

“We promise”, they said solemnly.

One spring day, not long after, the very water bug who had suggested the plan found himself climbing up the lily stalk. Up, up, up, he went. Before he knew what was happening, he had broke through the surface of the water and fallen onto the broad, green lily pad above.

When he awoke, he looked about with surprise. He couldn’t believe what he saw. A startling change had come to his old body. His movement revealed four silver wings and a long tail. Even as he struggled, he felt an impulse to move his wings...The warmth of the sun soon dried the moisture from the new body. He moved his wings again and suddenly found himself up above the water. He had become a dragonfly!!

Swooping and dipping in great curves, he flew through the air. He felt exhilarated in the new atmosphere. By and by the new dragonfly lighted happily on a lily pad to rest. Then it was that he chanced to look below to the bottom of the pond. Why, he was right above his old friends, the water bugs! There they were scurrying around, just as he had been doing some time before.

The dragonfly remembered the promise: “the next one of us who climbs up the lily stalk will come back and tell where he or she went and why.” Without thinking, the dragonfly darted down. Suddenly he hit the surface of the water and bounced away. Now that he was a dragonfly, he could no longer go into
the water...

“I can’t return!” he said in dismay. “At least, I tried. But I can’t keep my promise. Even if I could go back, not one of the water bugs would know me in my new body. I guess I’ll just have to wait until they become dragonflies too. Then they’ll understand what has happened to me, and where I went.”

And the dragonfly winged off happily into its wonderful new world of sun and air......

Continue reading Dragonfly Story »

Care to leave a comment? »

- Filed under:
  - Memorial Stories

Music for Memorials

- Posted on November 12, 2014 at 12:09 pm
- Edit

Classical

Air on a G string – Bach

Adagio – Mozart

Ashoken Farewell – Jay Unger

Ave Maria – Bach

Canon – Pachelbel

Cello Concerto – Elgar

Claire de Lune – Claude Debussy
Funeral March – Beethoven
Fur Elise – Beethoven
Gymnopedie – Satie
Meditation – Massenet
New World Symphony (Going Home) – Dvorak
Nimrod – Elgar
Nocturne in E flat Major – Chopin
Pavane – Faure
Piano Concerto 21 – Mozart
Prelude in C minor – Chopin
Serenade for Strings – Elgar
Sheep May Safely Graze – J.S.Bach
Solveig’s song -“Peer Gynt”- Grieg
Symphony No.6 “Pastoral” – Beethoven
The Four Seasons (Winter) – Vivaldi
The Gadfly – Shostakovich
The Lark Ascending – Vaughan Williams
The Londonderry Air (Danny Boy)
The Planets “Venus” – Holst
The Swan – Saint-Saens

Country
All My Tears – Emmylou Harris
Angels Among Us – Alabama
The Baby – Blake Shelton
Believe – Brooks & Dunn
The Best I Ever Had – Gary Allan
Bless the Broken Road – Rascal Flatts
Borrowed Angels – Kristin Chenowith
Bring on the Rain – Jo Dee Messina & Tim McGraw
Daddy’s Hands – Holly Dunn
Dancing with the Angels – Monk and Neagel
The Dance – Garth Brooks
Forever and Ever – George Strait
The Good Stuff – Kenny Chesney
Go Rest High on That Mountain – Vince Gill
Goodbye for Now – Kathy Troccoli
Happy Trails – Roy Rogers and Dale Evans
Help Pour out the Rain – Buddy Jewell
Heroes – Paul Overstreet
Holes in the Floor of Heaven – Steve Wariner
Homesick – MercyMe
I Can Only Imagine – MercyMe
If I Had Only Known – Reba McEntire
If Tomorrow Never Comes – Garth Brooks
If You Get There Before I Do – Collin Raye
I’m Already There – Lonestar
I Won’t Let Go – Rascal Flatts
Life Ain’t Always Beautiful – Gary Allan
Life Without You – Stevie Ray Vaughn
Live Like You Were Dying – Tim McGraw
Looking Through Your Eyes – LeAnn Rimes
My Wish – Rascal Flatts
Nobody Knows it but Me – Kevin Sharp
One More Day – Diamond Rio
A Picture of Me Without You – Lorrie Morgan
Riverbank – Jeff Bates
River of Time – The Judds
Ships of Heaven – Blackhawk
Sissy’s Song – Alan Jackson
Skin – Rascal Flatts
Streets of Heaven – Sherrie Austin (loss of child)
There Goes My Life – Kenny Chesney
There You’ll Be – Faith Hill
Through the Years – Kenny Rogers
Two Teardrops – Steve Wariner
Wayfaring Stranger – Johnny Cash
What Hurts the Most – Rascall Flatts
When I Get Where I’m Going – Brad Paisley
Who You’d Be Today – Kenny Chesney
With Hope – Steven Curtis Chapman
Without You – Dixie Chicks
You’ll be There – George Strait

Old Time

As Time Goes By
Danny Boy
Flower of Scotland
We’ll Meet Again – Vera Lynn, Rosemary Clooney

Pop/Rock

A Mothers Prayer – Celine Dion
Affirmation – Always Look On the Bright Side of Life – Savage Garden
Angel – Sarah McLachlan
Angels – Robbie Williams
Angels Brought Me Here – Guy Sebastian
Annie’s Song – John Denver
Arms Wide Open – Creed
As Long as I Can See the Light – Creedence Clearwater Revival
As Tears Go By – Rolling Stones
Baby Mine – Bette Midler (loss of child)
Back Home Again – John Denver
Beautiful by Jennifer Paige
Beautiful Boy – John Lennon
Because You Loved Me – Celine Dion
Better Days – Dianne Reeves
Blessed – Elton John
Bridge Over Troubled Water – Simon and Garfunkel
Bright Eyes – Art Garfunkel
Candle in the Wind – Elton John
Change the World – Eric Clapton
Circle of Life – Elton John
Close to You – The Carpenters
Con Te Partiro/Time to Say Goodbye – Andrea Bocelli and Sarah Brightman
Dance With My Father – Luther Vandross
Dancing With The Angels – Monk & Neagle
Dante’s Prayer – Loreena McKennit
Deliver Me – Sarah Brightman
Don’t Cry Daddy – Elvis Presley
Don’t Let the Sun Go Down On Me – Elton John
Dust in the Wind – Kansas
Evergreen – Barbra Streisand
Everybody Hurts – REM
Everything I Own – Bread
Ev’ry Time We Say Goodbye – Ella Fitzgerald
Father and Son – Cat Stevens
Fields of Gold – Sting, Eva Cassidy
Fire and Rain – James Taylor
Fly – Celine Dion (popular for infants)
Forever Young – Rod Stewart
Friends – Michael W. Smith
From A Distance – Better Midler
Gone too Soon – Babyface or Michael Jackson
Goodbye – Lionel Richie
Goodbye My Lover – James Blunt
Goodbye’s the Saddest Word – Celine Dion
Green Green Grass of Home – Tom Jones
Have I Told You Lately – Rod Stewart or Van Morrison
Hallelujah – Jeff Buckley
He Ain’t Heavy, He’s My Brother – The Hollies
Hero – Mariah Carey
Home – Daughtry
How Far is Heaven – Los Lonely Boys
I am Your Angel – Celine Dion
I am Your Child – Barry Manilow
I Believe – Diamond Rio
I Can Feel You Drifting – Chalee Tennison
I Can See Clearly Now – Johnny Nash
I Don’t Wanna Close My Eyes – Aerosmith
I Have a Dream – ABBA
I Hope You Dance – Lee Ann Womack
I Need You – 3T
I Will Always Love You – Whitney Houston, Dolly Parton
I Will Remember You – Sarah McLachlan
I’ll Be Missing You – P. Diddy, Faith Evans
I’ll Be Seeing You – Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Barry Manilow, Anne Murray, etc.
I’ll Remember – Madonna
I’ll Remember April – Frank Sinatra
If – Bread
If I Could Be Where You Are – Enya
If I Ever Had to Say Goodbye to You – Helen Reddy
Imagine – John Lennon, Eva Cassidy
In My Life – The Beatles or Bette Midler
In The Arms of an Angel – Sarah McLachlan
Into the Mystic – Van Morrison
I’ve Had the Time of My Life – Jennifer Warren & Bil Medley
Keep Me in Your Heart for Awhile – Warren Zevon
Knocking on Heaven’s Door – Bob Dylan, Guns N Roses
Landslide – Fleetwood Mac or Dixie Chicks
Last Farewell – Elvis Presley
Last Kiss – Pearl Jam
Lean on Me – Bill Withers
Let It Be – The Beatles
Life is a Highway – Tom Cochrane
Life Without You – Stevie Ray Vaughn
Longer – Dan Fogelberg
Looking Forward, Looking Back – Slim Dusty
May It Be – Enya
Memories – Elvis
Memory – Barbara Streisand
Midnight Special – Creedence Clearwater
Morning Has Broken – Cat Stevens
Mull of Kintyre – Paul Mccartney
My Heart Will Go On – Celine Dion
My Immortal – Evanescence
My Way – Frank Sinatra
Never Can Say Goodbye – Gloria Gaynor
Never Gone – Backstreet Boy
Nothing Compares 2 U – Sinead O’Connor
Oh Very Young – Cat Stevens
On Eagles Wings – Josh Groban
On The Road Again – Willie Nelson
One More Day – Diamond Rio
One Sweet Day – Mariah Carey
Only the Good Die Young – Billy Joel
Over the Rainbow – Judy Garland
Place in this World- Michael W Smith
Pleasure and Pain – Ben Harper
Precious Child – Karen Taylor
Que Sera Sera – Doris Day
Rainbow Song – Kermit the Frog
Run to Paradise – Choirboys
Sailing – Rod Stewart
Seasons in the Sun – Terry Jacks
She’s Got a Way – Billy Joel
Simply the Best – Tina Turner
Smile – Nat King Cole
So Far Away – Carole King
Softly as I Leave You – Elvis, Fran Sinatra, Andy Williams
Somewhere – Barbara Streisand

Somewhere Out There – Celine Dion & Peabo Bryson; Linda Ronstadt & James Ingram

Somewhere Over The Rainbow – Eva Cassidy

Somewhere Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World – Israel Kamakawiwo'ole

Stairway To Heaven – Led Zeppelin

Stand by Me – Ben E. King

Standing Right Next To Me – Karla Bonoff

Sunshine on My Shoulders – John Denver

Tears in Heaven – Eric Clapton

Tenderly Calling – John Denver

Thank You For Loving Me – Jon Bon Jovi

The Green Green Grass of Home – Tom Jones

The Last Farewell – Elvis Presley

The Prayer – Celine Dion & Andrea Bocelli

The Rose – Bette Midler

The Way We Were – Barbara Streisand

This Woman’s Work – Kate Bush

Time in a Bottle – Jim Croce

Time to Say Goodbye – Andrea Bocelli & Sarah Brightman

To Where You Are – Josh Groban

True Colors – Cindy Lauper
Unchained Melody – The Righteous Brothers

Unforgettable – Nat King Cole/Natalie Cole

Up Where We Belong – Joe Cocker and Jennifer Warner

Wayfaring Stranger – Johnny Cash, Eva Cassidy

What a Wonderful World – Louis Armstrong, Eva Cassidy

What Matters Most – Kenny Rankin

When I Die – No Mercy

When I Grow Too Old To Dream – John Mcdermott

When You’re Gone – Avril Lavigne

Who Wants to Live Forever – Queen

Wildflower – Color Me Badd

Wind Beneath My Wings – Bette Midler

Wish You Were Here – Pink Floyd

Yesterday – The Beatles

You Are My Sunshine – Anne Murray

You Are So Beautiful – Joe Cocker

You Are the Sunshine of My Life – Stevie Wonder

You Are Always On My Mind – Elvis Presley

You Raise Me Up – Josh Groban

You’ll Be In My Heart – Phil Collins

You’ll Never Walk Alone – Gerry and the Peacemakers, Elvis, Johnny Cash, Judy Garland

You’re Gone – Diamond Rio
You’re the First, the Last, My Everything – Barry White
You’re the Inspiration – Chicago
You’re My Best Friend – Queen
You’ve Got a Friend – James Taylor
Your Heart Will Lead You Home – Kenny Loggins

Religious
Abide With Me
Amazing Grace – Leann Rimes, Elvis, Susan Boyle
Ave Maria – Celine Dion
Be Not Afraid – John Michael Talbot
Come As You Are – John Michael Talbot
Hallelujah “Vocal” – Mozart
Here I Am Lord – John Michael Talbot
Jesu Joy of Man’s Desiring – J.S. Bach
Onward Christian Soldiers – Tennesee Ernie Ford
Psalm 23
Requiem – Berlioz
Requiem -Pie Jesu – Faure
Symphony No.9 “Ode to Joy” – Beethoven
The Lord Is My Shepherd – John Michael Talbot
Memorial Service (Suitable for Suicide)

1. Music*
   2. Opening Prayer, Treatment, or Meditation

III. Minister’s Comments

Today we celebrate Life, and specifically, One special life, the life of _______.

We join together as friends and family, as people whose lives have been forever changed by the life of _______.

I believe that each one of us has a desire to live a full life (just like ____ did): to feel fully expressed and comfortable in our surroundings, with our friends and family. But I don’t believe we all do. In fact, I know we don’t – not all the time anyway. If each of us were to undertake a deep examination into life, into our own life, we would see times we have been lost, times we felt weary, frightened, or that life was simply unworkable.

We spend much of our lives learning about Life and about living. And no matter what our vast experiences as human beings may be, few of us know enough to consciously judge when it is time to transcend this plane – not for ourselves, nor
for another.

Yet, there is within each one of us an innate wisdom that does know the right and perfect time for us to experience this thing we call death, which is but a different view of the greater reality we call Life. Everyone deserves this respect, ______ deserves our respect and loving-kindness...as does his/her family & friends. Love, compassion & forgiveness are on the path of healing our sadness.

We do not question ________’s inner wisdom in this experience. We only remember the Gift that he/she has been in our lives.

1. Eulogy
2. Minister’s Comments, cont.

We know that although ________ has left our physical sight, the expression of God, as him/her, remains in each of us. Today, especially, we recall those precious times when our lives were touched by _____.

In our memories, he/she sings and dances and wonders anew. And yet we cannot bind him/her to us in those memories. Now he/she is off to a greater expression. He/She is going on to “seek a great perhaps.”

• Perhaps there are other worlds to explore, other means of life and living.
• Perhaps there are other planes so far removed from our present awareness that we cannot even guess at what they might be.

What a wonderful and exciting time this is for our friend – to be an explorer of the unknown, a challenger of all of the wisdom that we now know, a fulfiller of the dreams that seemed unobtainable here.

Can we say that ________ is not yet finished here? Can we
know the many mansions of his/her soul and decide when he/she should come and when he/she should go? I think not.

There is a Power that is much greater than we are that set all of Life in motion and to which ________ has turned many times to answer the questions he/she had of this Life. Now is a time when we, too, can turn to that Power of Love and Life within us that does nothing in vain.

We can know that this Power is for Good and that Divine Order does permeate the universe, our lives, and the life of _________. This knowing is what can fill the space in the times when we question how this came to be, or when his/her absence is most strongly felt.

1. Sharing of Friends

There are friends and family here today who have asked to speak of their relationship with _________. As they do so, I invite each of you to bring to mind your most cherished memory of him/her and experience afresh in him/her honor.

(Speakers are asked to speak no more than 1-2 minutes.)

VII. Music*

VIII. **Meditation/Reading**

(This may be done by a friend or family member)

In the ancient Hindu writing called The Bagavad Gita we read:

“Never the spirit was born;
The spirit shall cease to be never.

Never was a time it was not:
End and beginning are but dreams.
Birthless and deathless and changeless
Remains the spirit forever;
Death has not touched it at all,
Dead, though the house of it seems.
Nay, but as one who lays his worn-out robes away,
And taking new ones saying:
“These will I wear today.”
So puts aside the spirit lightly the garb of flesh,
And passes to inherit a residence afresh.”

1. Minister Comments, cont.

This is the possibility that we look to today – that the thread of life that was expressed as _________ continues this day – in what form, we do not know. But what we do know is the meaning that his/her life had for each of us.

We know that everything that _________ is exists within each one of us right now. We know how greatly he/she touched our lives, and that we will never be the same for having known him/her. It is in this way that she/he lives on – through us. It is not that we cling to he/she, but rather that our lives have been strengthened, enhanced, and enriched by his/hers.

The poet, Kahlil Gibran has written that in death:

“our spirit is freed from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered.”

Our spoken memories of, and gratitudes for, _________ can be
as prayers that lift him/her in his/her new freedom.

Today, as much as it grieves us, we release him/her to that greater awareness of her God essence – that greater wisdom – to that place of limitless possibilities – to that place of total love and total peace.

We thank him/her in these moments for his/her life and the portion of it that he/she gave to us.

- We thank him/her for him/her laughter.
- We thank him/her for him/her unconditional love of others.
- We thank him/her for him/her for the blessings he/she gave the world just by simply being who he/she is.
- We thank him/her for him/her loving and inspiring presence that will always be with us.

1. **Closing Prayer**

Please join me in prayer.

_Infinite Presence of Divine Love, we raise our hearts and minds in celebration and gratitude for the life of _________. We acknowledge and honor his/her contributions to our lives and pave his/her way of this next journey with love, joy, and peace._

_We release ________ to his/her greater good. We give thanks that he/she so gently and briefly touched our lives._

_He/She loved us, and allowed us to love him/her. We simply cannot ask for more than that._

_Amen._
XI. Music*

This concludes our service.

*See Memorial Service Music for song choices

**Other stories/poems/readings are available in separate files