

Personalising a Service

No two people are alike. So why should their funerals be?

When arranging a funeral with Lychgate Funeral Home, you will find that we will go to great lengths to design a service that honours your loved one's life.

We will listen carefully for what is meaningful to you and for what has been significant for your loved one. We will then encourage you to incorporate those ideas or thoughts into the funeral service you are arranging.

The following are just a few suggestions that can help us personalise the funeral for you.

- Write a letter to the person who has died and include all of the thoughts and feelings you have not been able to express to them in person. Seal the letter in an envelope and place it in the casket. Your written thoughts will go with your loved one to his or her final resting place.
- Bring in a c.d. or cassette recording of a favourite song of the person who has died and we will play it for you during the viewing and/or funeral service.
- Request us to arrange for helium balloons to be released after the grave side service. Everyone can be given one and some brief words may be said before releasing them into the air.
- Bring in photographs spanning the life of the person who has died and we will display them on a memory board to be present at the viewing and funeral service. These can be photos with family or friends, at work or play, fishing or hunting, golfing, knitting, baking, serious and comical.

- If your loved one had a hobby of building things or was involved in the arts, crafts or photography, bring in some of their works to be displayed at the funeral home. These could include objects that reflect a favourite hobby such as golf, gardening or needlepoint. We can drape quilt works over the casket, for example.
- If you have favourite scripture readings, let us know what they are and we will see to it that they are incorporated into the service.
- If your loved one composed poetry or essays, provide us with a copy. We could reproduce their writing so that people may take a copy away with them from the funeral home or perhaps they could be recited or read during the service.
- If the person who died was not a regular church attender, consider having the funeral in a significant place that perhaps reflected their lifestyle, like a favourite park, the marina, the bowling club or RSA. The possibilities are numerous.
- In the Catholic church, during the presentation of gifts, family members may elect to bring them forward for presentation to the priest. Even the youngest grandchildren will feel honoured to act in this capacity.
- One thing family members may find very hard to do at the time but may cherish for years after, is to elect to close the casket of their loved one. Just as our mothers tucked us in at night during our childhood, closing a loved one's casket is the last time we can tuck them in. This may be a tender moment for final good byes to the physical body.

- During the funeral, pay tribute to the person who has died. Often the celebrant or clergy person may not have known the person who has died and since the funeral is intended to recognize a life that has been lived, it is important to do so in a personal way. Who better to give a eulogy than someone who knew personally the one who has died.
- Place cherished items in the casket, such as pictures of the grandchildren and other family members, a photo of the family pet, a favourite golf club, a pool cue, a well worn cap, or a religious item. We welcome all of them as your way of saying good bye.
- If a husband always drove his wife everywhere or a wife drove her husband to his appointments, consider having the spouse drive the hearse to the cemetery or at least ride in the hearse with our staff member. It is a very personal way of accompanying your loved one to their final resting place.
- In proceeding to the cemetery, or crematorium consider a favourite place your loved one liked to go, like the beach or a favourite restaurant, or perhaps they were happiest at home. We can arrange to have the procession pass by this special place.
- If your loved one had a favourite vehicle Consider using this rather than a hearse.
- Dress your loved one in clothing from his or her own wardrobe that reflects his or her unique personality.

- Include a video presentation or slideshow during the service that incorporates home movies or pictures of your loved one.
- Personalise the casket by selecting a favourite colour, flag, fabric or keepsake.
- Light a remembrance candle at the start of the service. In time, this candle may be lit again to remember your loved one at Christmas, on their birthday or on other memorable occasions.
- Select special music, not just traditional hymns, but songs that were meaningful to your loved one.

You may of course think of other unique ways to acknowledge the life of the person who has died. If so, please bring them to our attention and we will make every effort to see to it that your wishes are fulfilled. And remember, by having a funeral to reflect on a life that has been lived, you provide an opportunity for all of those who've met your loved one to farewell them.

For further information refer to contact:



We have three locations serving
the residents of Wellington:

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SUGGESTIONS TO PERSONALISE THE FUNERAL SERVICE

