

Plans for my funeral/memorial service – worksheet

Note: this is intended as a guide only – **you will not turn this in with your final project** – however, be sure to address each item in detail by responding to the questions at the end of each section. Please do NOT submit bullet points to address each item.

Mortuary Preference _____ Are arrangements pre-paid? _____ Please explain why.

Cemetery Preference _____ (above ground or below ground). Why this location?

Cremaains: Buried/Niche/Scattered: _____ If scattered, indicate the location where you would like this to take place. (Note: there are some places that prohibit the scattering of ashes – be sure to check first). Does this space have meaning?

Body Disposition: Earth burial ___ Cremation ___ Science/Research Donation ___ Cryonic Suspension ___ Resomation ___

Note: If body is not accepted for science, indicate second choice. Non-acceptance is not a reflection on you - “they” simply have lots and lots of bodies!

Casket/Urn Preference: (in this section indicate what type of material you would prefer - e.g., wood - cherry, urn – pewter, decorative): _____ Why did you select this material?

Not sure what to look for? Consider taking a trip to funeraldepot.com. Or, simply go out to the web, type in the word caskets and do a search of companies offering caskets, urns and vaults. The caskets below are from funeraldepot.com (no longer in business).



“Thanks and Praises”



“Heart of America”

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Source: Artcaskets.com



Source: collegiatememorials.com Note: website is no longer selling caskets



Source: <http://www.imagegossips.com/2010/11/weird-coffins-for-happy-funeral/> (information provided by a former student!).
Corn casket source: <http://www.trendhunter.com/trends/paa-joe>



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When selecting a casket – consider both the interior as well as the exterior. With the panel, will it be plain, or, will you have a design?

Be sure to include this with your plans.

www.enduringkeepsakes.com offers personalized panels



Websites of interest...for additional ideas and samples.

www.auroracasket.com
www.batesville.com
www.artcaskets.com
www.vintagecoffins.com
www.northerncasket.com
www.verplank.com
www.cowboyslastride.com

www.pettigrewcaskets.com
www.trappistcaskets.com
<http://www.northwoodscasket.com/>
www.lifegem.com
www.wilbertonline.com
<http://www.trendhunter.com/trends/novelty-coffin>
<https://ultimatememorials.com/store/custom-art-caskets/signature-series-caskets/camo-casket>

Funeral/Memorial Service

Notification: People to be notified of your death (includes family and friends). How will they be notified?

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Death announcement to be included in the newspaper? Some larger newspapers charge a per line fee for a death announcement.

Note: The following example is the style you need to use for your death announcement – please pay attention to **all of the elements** included in this announcement. An obituary will be a news story of your life – which expands on your accomplishments.

Cotton, Melva



Age 68 - Aug 18, 2014

Preceded in death by parents, Arthur D and Alice Curtis; brothers, Arthur D. Curtis, Jr., William "Billy", Calvin Curtis. Survived by 6 sons, Sean (Lisa), Rufus (Doreen) Cotton, Jr, Kirk (Patsi), Kerry Trotter, Brian Cotton, Mykell Haynie; 3 daughters, Shawnell (Tirome), LaVonne "Simone" (Lance) Cotton, Kourtney Ashford Trotter; 2 brothers, Gerald and Anthony Curtis; 24 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren; other relatives and friends.

VISITATION 6-8pm Friday, Mortuary. FUNERAL SERVICE 11am Saturday, Salem Baptist Church, 3131 Lake St. Interment: Forest Lawn Cemetery.

THOMAS FUNERAL HOME

3920 N. 24th St. 402-453-7111

NOTE: Make sure to include memorials in your announcement.

Open or closed casket? _____ **Viewing Prior to Cremation?** (note: once you're gone, you're gone!) _____

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Chapel/Place of Worship _____ Why did you select this place?

Prayer Service _____ **Wake (Rosary)** _____ **No religious service** _____ (services held the night before)

Will anything special happen during the services the night before? Will you have someone eulogize you?

Clergy: If a religious service is held, are there certain clergy members you would like (would not like) present? Why would you like these people present...or, not present?

Music selections (this would include before, during, and after the service). I expect you to identify some music to be played. What will it be and why? Note: Some places of worship might have restrictions on what can be played. If this is the case – then consider having these selections played at the mortuary.

Bible passages/poetry/quotations/verses/special sayings: Are there any passages which have special meaning to you? Please include a reference to these in your paper.

Eulogy – anyone special you would like to have deliver this? (It is not necessary – just something to consider.) Note: not all religious traditions will allow eulogies to be given in the church. Please keep this in mind when making your arrangements.

Parting Gifts: Anything special you would like to share with attendees? At a recent funeral, a former schoolteacher had Hershey kisses available for everyone to take as a token of her affection. Other ideas include flower seeds, golf balls, bubbles, chocolate candies, lottery tickets, etc. This is required. Be sure to include something.

Flowers: Omit flowers? _____ If no, what flowers would you like to have at the service? What about the casket spray?

Memorials: What group, or groups, you would like memorials sent? (examples might include the American Cancer Society, University of Nebraska Foundation, etc.):

Clothing/jewelry: What clothes would you like to be wearing for your last hurrah? Do you want jewelry to stay on your body – or removed prior to burial?: Even if you opt for cremation you will need to indicate your clothing preference.

Memorial Video/Tribute: While not required, some students opt to create their own memorial tribute featuring photographs and music. Give this some thought.

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Memorial (Prayer) Card/folder: Is there a special poem, prayer, saying that you would like to include (eg., Psalm 23, Prayer of St. Francis, “I am not gone,” and others). Do you want to include a photograph, special picture, etc.? Just some things to think about. **You will need to include a memorial card with your plans. Check out www.memorialprayercards.com for ideas.**



(source: www.yorkgrp.com)

Memorial Card/Folder

After funeral/memorial service arrangements (funeral luncheon, visitation at house, Shiva):

Pallbearers (you should plan for 6 - unless you are cremated, then one should be enough ☺) and Honorary Pallbearers (these are people who hold a position in name only rather than holding the actual casket). :

Committal service – an often forgotten piece of the puzzle. What happens after the service? Will they leave your casket or urn above ground – or, will there be some sort of burial. Be sure to include this in your plans.



Source: <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=84839013>