

Memorial Service Features

There is no formal structure to a memorial service. As with a traditional funeral, people may participate in the memorial service in many different ways, including delivering readings or prayers, singing songs or playing musical instruments, or sharing a memory of the person who died.



Funeral Service Features

No matter where it's held, a funeral is a structured ceremony, with a beginning, middle and end. Each is intended to engage the living participants in activities which will transform their status within the community, provide mourners with a collective grieving experience, and celebrate a life lived.

The Graveside Service

A graveside service can follow a traditional funeral, can precede a memorial service, or can be a stand-alone event. The service will be held at the gravesite, or at the crypt where the body or cremated remains will be interred. The graveside services tend to be fairly brief. The officiant will likely recite prayers or readings, a eulogy may be delivered.

The Importance of Having a Seasoned Officiant or Pastor

A good funeral or memorial service requires the sensitivity and comfort only a minister can provide. A pastor or minister is vital during crucial times such as the loss of a loved one. No one is ever prepared when a loved one is tragically taken or has suffered through a long illness.

No matter how old a person has lived or how long a family has prepared for the departure of their loved ones, it is still "too sudden" for many family members. Having a seasoned pastor or officiant is very helpful in the planning of a memorial or funeral service. There are many unknowns that the family may not be aware of.

Contact Information

Straight Arrow Ministries
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Memorial & Funeral Services



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 23:1-4

Funeral and Memorial Service Officiant

Pastor Ken L. Birks

About Ken's Services

A memorial or funeral service is an opportunity for the family's loved ones to honor and celebrate the life of their loved one, to acknowledge the loss, and to share the process of saying goodbye.

My intention in leading funeral or memorial services is to create an environment that allows you to be as relaxed and present as possible for this important event, leaving the logistics and details to me.

I prefer to meet with the you and whoever you would like to be there, preferably in person sometime before the day of the service. This meeting can take a couple hours, as it's important for us to get acquainted and for you to have enough time to share in-depth information about your beloved. From the information gathered at our meeting, I will prepare a service (non-denominational, religious, or secular) that is aligned with the nature and spiritual direction of your loved one as well as what is comfortable for you.

I can guide you in writing a history of their life, or eulogy, that includes significant events and their unique contributions to family, friends, and the world. This is read during the service, either by me or by you. The history sets a tone for others to talk about their personal stories and loving memories without repeating historical information. My experience as a published author helps me to capture the life story of your loved one in a brief yet meaningful, graceful, and when appropriate, humorous manner. I can integrate music, readings, and speakers into the ceremony.

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The Role of the Officiant

- Meeting with the family.
- Being available to the family for words of comfort and guidance during the planning process.
- Leading the service.
- Normally eulogizing the person who has deceased.
- Sharing a short message.
- Saying prayers..
- In most cases inviting attendees to share something about the deceased loved one.
- Inviting attendees to any events after the funeral service (such as a burial or entombment at a cemetery, scattering of cremated remains, or reception.)
- As an officiant, I can be as involved as you'd like. I will work with you to create a unique and personalized service that best reflects your desires.

The Fees

The suggestion fee is \$325.00. I understand that there may be other bills associated with a loved one's passing, such as medical, travel and other funeral fees. If you would like my services but it is not in your budget, please do not stress. If am available I would be honored to have the opportunity to officiate your loved one's memorial.

My suggested fee is structured to support time dedicated to writing, designing, officiating and any meetings that are required for your service.

About Ken Birks



Ken is a trained and highly experienced officiant who conducts services throughout the Sacramento region. These include Funeral and Memorial Services, Weddings and Renewal of Vows. On all occasions he works closely with you prior to the ceremony to ensure that the service is personally written, created and delivered exactly how you want it to be. He will help you say a personal heartfelt goodbye to your loved one.

His desire and commitment to you is that your ceremony will actually mean something that is not soon forgotten—something that you and your friends will remember forever.

Ken Birks is an ordained pastor and elder at The Rock of Roseville in Roseville, California where has been a part of The Rock of Roseville since its inception in 1997. Prior to coming to The Rock of Roseville, Ken was the Senior Pastor of Golden Valley Christian Center, a non-denominational, Spirit-filled church, in Roseville, CA for twelve years.

Ken is also a self-published author and wedding officiant in the Sacramento region and has been voted as the #1 Wedding Officiant by Style Magazine for the last three years.

Ken has been married to his wife, Lydia, since 1979. They have two adult children and three grandchildren. Their highest calling has been their children and the many teens and children whom they have been foster or surrogate parents to over the past 30 years.