

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, sharing memories of your loved one. It can be held at any location.



Funeral Service Features

No matter where it's held, a funeral is a ceremony with a beginning, middle and end. Each is intended to engage the living participants in activities that provide mourners with a collective grieving experience, and celebrate their loved one's life.

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 is 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 and comforting in the planning of a memorial or funeral service.

Contact Information

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Funeral & Memorial Services



*You think I am gone forevermore,
How wonderfully wrong you are,
For I am the same as before
And have not gone that far.*

*My world now consists of love,
There is no greed or sorrow,
So when you join me above,
You leave every sad tomorrow.*

by G W (Bill) Marshall

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 present as possible for this important event, leaving the logistics and details to me.

I will meet with you and whoever you would like to be there before the day of the service. This meeting can take up to an hour so you have enough time to share in-depth information about your beloved. From the information gathered at our meeting, I will prepare a service (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 (eulogy) that includes significant events and their unique contributions to family, friends, and the world. This is read during the service, either by me, somebody you designate or you. The history sets a tone for others to share 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. We will discuss how you can integrate music, readings, and speakers into the ceremony.

The Role of the Officiant

As Your officiant, I will be as involved as you'd like. I will work with you to create a unique and personalized service that best reflects your desires, including:

- Meeting with the family.
- Being available to the family for words of comfort and guidance during the planning process.
- Leading the service according to our meeting plan.
- Sharing a short message.
- Inviting attendees to share something about your 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.)

Fees

The suggested honorarium is \$250.00. I understand that there may be other bills associated with a loved one's passing, such as medical, travel and other funeral fees. Therefore, I am flexible with what the honorarium should be.

The honorarium is structured to support time dedicated to writing, designing, and officiating at your service.

www.funerals.straitarrow.net

About Ken Birks



Ken Birks is a trained and highly experienced officiant who conducts services throughout the Sacramento region, including Funeral and Memorial Services, Weddings and Renewal of Vows.

On all occasions I work 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. The goal is to help you say a personal heartfelt goodbye to your loved one.

My 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.

I am an ordained pastor and founding member at The Rock of Roseville since its inception in 1997. Prior to this, I was the Senior Pastor of Golden Valley Christian Center, a non-denominational, Spirit-filled church in Roseville, CA for twelve years.

I am also a self-published author and wedding officiant in the Sacramento region and have been voted as the #1 Wedding Officiant by Style Magazine (Placer County Edition) for the last three years.

I've been married to my wife, Lydia, since 1979. We have two adult children and three grandchildren. Our highest calling has been their children and the many teens and children whom we've been foster and surrogate parents to over the past 30 years.