



Celebrating Life with a Personalized Memorial

Funerals can be as unique as the life being celebrated through personalization. By personalizing the ceremony, a funeral turns into a celebration of a life lived, reflecting the personality, hobbies, passions and interests of the deceased. It can inspire healing by encouraging family, friends and visitors to share memories of the deceased. Here are examples and ideas for a meaningful memorial:

- Equestrian – For a horse lover, use saddles, boots, square bales of hay and partial fence structures for décor.
- Hunter – For an avid hunter, a florist can turn a chapel altar into a hunting blind, and the deceased's prized hunting dogs can be nearby in hunting position.
- Cyclist – For a cycling enthusiast, display the deceased's road bike and cycling medals next to the casket. At the cemetery, members from his or her cycling club can escort the hearse carrying the casket from the cemetery gates to the gravesite.
- Golfer – For an avid golfer, pay them a high honor by planning a golf themed memorial service. Consider having golf balls for your guests instead of prayer cards that have the deceased date of birth and death and maybe a short passage on them. Pictures of your loved one on the green can be made into a collage and displayed, perhaps with their golf bag and clubs next to it. A golf bag would make a nice container to decorate with flowers and ferns.
- Wine Connoisseur – For a wine lover, create a few separate wine tasting ceremony stations. At each station, friends and family can taste your favorite wine and share favorite memories. Another idea is to create customized labels for a variety of wine to be given to guests or engrave the deceased's name on champagne/pilsner/shot glasses for the reception following the service - guests may take home the glasses in memory of the loved one.
- Sweet Tooth – For one dessert lover who was known to go out of her way to get a special scoop of ice cream, ice cream was served in wine glasses with a spoon to toast her life.
- Beach Lover – If there was no better place than the beach for your loved one, plan a paradise themed celebration, complete with leis and wish lanterns for people send their good wishes and favorite memories up to their loved one.





- Outdoorsman – For the loved one who found peace in nature, display backpacks, tents and bikes. Have guests share their favorite “big fish” stories and them with a tree seedling to plant in honor of your loved one.
- Bird Watcher– Display several birdhouses, feeders and beautiful photos taken by your loved one. Send guests home with small packets of bird seed or DIY bird feeders to remember the deceased.
- Sports Enthusiast – Print an obituary requesting that attendees wear sporting jerseys to the funeral in the deceased’s honor.
- Poker / Blackjack Player - Emboss your loved one’s name on poker chips for guests to take home.
- Bookworm – If the deceased was an avid reader with many books, why not share the books with family and friends. Display the books on a shelf at the service. Ask the guests to take one of the books to enjoy in his memory.
- Foodie – If the deceased had a special recipe, or was known for making something like a cookie, have their special cookies available at the service. Make up individual treat bags filled with the cookies. Then attach a card with the recipe to each bag.
- Gardner – Give a variety of seed starter packs (or flower bulbs) to give to each attendee to plant in honor of a gardener.
- Music Lover –If the deceased had a love for a particular type of music, perform it at the memorial, like the polka or bag pipes.

Funeral services are changing to meet the needs of a generation that has different ideas about life – and about death. By focusing the funeral service on things the deceased enjoyed, as well as the experiences shared throughout his or her life, it encourages loved ones to share stories of the deceased. In some instances, these discussions allow the family to learn special things about their loved one that they may have never known.

You can find other creative memorial ideas by searching online or on idea apps like Pinterest. Learn more about how Reflection Pointe Garden can help you celebrate a loved one’s life with a custom memorial.