

Subject: Memorial Service

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Memorial Service

We are here today to pay tribute to and to celebrate the life of _____, who came into this world on _____, and made his/her transition into the continuation of Life on _____, 200__.

_____ leaves behind a loving family:

Survivors...

Today marks a new beginning for _____, for all life merely changes form – it does not die.

(John 14: 1-2) “Let not your ears be troubled. In my Father’s house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you.”

It is difficult to sum up an individual – because the qualities that you experienced and love about _____ continue on, but we remember...

Eulogy...

Most of all, we remember that _____ - was such a caring person. He/she laughed a lot...lived well... in a sense, that all the caring and the love that he/she embodied and expressed continue, for his/her life goes on. He/she will be greatly missed. But I have found that for a person such as _____ that even in our grief, there is a sweetness about it. We are already immortal. We can come to see as God sees, into the many rooms in the mansion of Life. Birth is a miracle, and what is occurring at this time for _____ is a different kind of birth, another miracle.

Song...

Family/friends speak...

Urge everyone to mark their calendars... Call the family in one month...be of support...

The poet **Kahlil Gibran** tells us that an understanding of life lets us understand death. He said, “If you would indeed beyond the spirit of death, open your heart wide to the beyond of life. For life and death are one, even as the river and sea are one.

“In the depth of your hopes and desires lives your silent knowledge of the beyond, and like seeds dreaming beneath the snow, your heart dreams of spring. Trust the dreams, for in them are hidden the gate to eternity. “Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing. And when you have reached the mountain top – (just as _____ has), then you shall begin to climb. And when the earth shall claim your limbs, then shall you truly dance.”

This plane called Earth, this experience of life, is simply a curriculum for us to perfect our loving. So we prepare not to die, but to live. As the eagle freed from its cage soars to its native heights, so the soul of _____, freed from the home of heavy flesh, _____ knows more about life than we do.

Song...

**23rd Psalm or Footprints...
High Flight or Prayer for a Pilot...**

Conclusion: I’ve always like a passage I came across awhile back that speaks to our experience today. “I am standing on the seashore. A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze, and starts for the blue ocean. She is the object of beauty and strength. And I watch her until at length she hands like a speck of white cloud, just where the sea and the sky mingle with each other.

”Then someone at my side says, “There, she’s gone.” And I say, “Gone? Where? Gone from our sight, that is all. She is just as large in mast and sail and spar as when she left our side. And she is just as able to bear her living weight to her destined port. Her diminished size is in us, not in her. And just as the moment when someone said, ‘She’s gone,’ other eyes seeing her approach, and other voices take up the glad shout “Look, she comes!”

And so, we now say farewell to (commit the body of) _____ (unto the elements from which it came). And we realize in so doing, that the spirit of our beloved friend goes into a more glorious experience and continues on its upward journey into an ore complete expression for eternity.

We know that now _____ is free and we say farewell, but just for awhile, for we shall meet again.

Lord’s Prayer... or...

Prayer: “Infinite and eternal Father, almighty God. We know the abundance and peace that _____ is experiencing. We affirm that the light of Truth surrounds his/her family and holds them ever so lightly in the arms of

compassion and love. We give thanks for _____'s life and know that he/she is released in peace. With assurance, gratitude, and joy we say thank you Father. And so it is. Amen.”