

# STEWART BAXTER

FUNERAL & MEMORIAL SERVICES



## *Funeral Planning* **GUIDE**

This guide is meant to help you with the first steps of memorializing a love one who has passed. If you need assistance answering any questions, please reach out to your funeral director at any time.

### **CEDAR RAPIDS**

1844 1st Avenue NE  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52402

**319-362-2147**

FAX 319-365-5522

### **MOUNT VERNON**

715 10th Avenue SW  
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314

**319-895-8425**

FAX 319-895-8242





## Why we choose the *Calla Lily*

The longest night of the year occurs around December 21, commonly referred to as the winter solstice. The nights are dark and the air is cool as the earth tilts itself away from the sun. Experiencing the death of a loved one is certainly a dark day in our lives. Our natural response is grief and sadness.

The early Romans used the calla lily as a symbol of hope and rebirth during December's long days. A hardy flower not requiring much light, the blooming calla lily would represent that life can continue and flourish even during what may seem like unending bleakness. In grief, our loss often seems overwhelming, but as the days move forward we feel more warmth from the sun and know our love and memories for those passed will never be forgotten.

We choose the calla lily as part of our identity to let you know we recognize the dark days and will do our part to help you begin the process of realizing the loss. Everyone experiences grief in a different way, but we can all find inspiration in knowing better days are ahead.

## *Where to Begin . . .*

When you first begin the process of designing a funeral, the decisions you'll face might seem overwhelming at first. We're here to help you tackle the choices one by one and make the journey one of love, healing and life celebration.

Whether it's formal or informal, traditional or offbeat, a funeral provides an opportunity for family and friends to gather and support one another in taking the first steps of their healing journey. A service can take place in any setting - at your home, outdoors, or at our facilities, for example - and can incorporate music, poetry, or art in the celebration of a life well-lived. There are endless possibilities for what the service can be, and we're honored to go above and beyond in our duty to meet your personalized and specific requests.

Our staff is experienced in understanding and graciously accommodating the needs of all beliefs, faiths, lifestyles, and relationships. We're here to answer your questions and guide you through the decisions you'll need to make, and will encourage you to take your time to figure out the most meaningful and fitting way to honor your loved one and incorporate the elements that you and your family find meaningful.

# VITAL STATISTICS

*Please complete this page and return to the funeral home.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last Last Name Before Marriage*

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
*House Number & Street City State*

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Birth Place: \_\_\_\_\_  
*City State (or Country, if not USA)*

Citizenship: ☐ U.S. Citizen ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Father: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last Last Name Before Marriage*

Name of Mother: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last Last Name Before Marriage*

Usual Occupation (*do not list "retired"*): \_\_\_\_\_

Industry or Business: \_\_\_\_\_

Schools Attended: \_\_\_\_\_

Highest Level of Education: ☐ 8th grade or less ☐ College Credit, No Degree ☐ Bachelor's  
☐ Grade 9-12, No Diploma ☐ Technical or Instructional School ☐ Master's  
☐ High School Graduate or GED ☐ Associate's Degree ☐ Doctorate

Marital Status: ☐ Married ☐ Never Married ☐ Divorced ☐ Widowed

Name of Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_  
*First Middle Last Last Name Before Marriage*

Marriage Information: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Name of Location City, State Date*

*The information above is necessary for the preparation of a death certificate.  
Our funeral director will record the information with the state and also obtain certified copies.  
On average, families will need 2-5+ copies.*

## VETERAN INFORMATION

Branch of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Rank: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Service: \_\_\_\_\_ Service Serial Number: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please bring a copy of the DD-214 or discharge paperwork with you to the funeral home.  
This documentation will be needed to fully serve our veterans and their families.*

## SERVICE / EVENT

*If there is to be no service, disregard this page.*

Service: ☐ Casket/Funeral Service ☐ Cremation/Memorial Service ☐ Graveside Service ☐ No Service  
Visitation: ☐ Day Before Service ☐ Day of Service ☐ No Visitation  
☐ Public Viewing ☐ Private Family Viewing Only ☐ No Viewing  
Service Location: ☐ Funeral Home ☐ Church or Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Clergy or Celebrant: \_\_\_\_\_  
Casket/Urn: ☐ Metal ☐ Wood ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_  
Clothing Instructions: \_\_\_\_\_  
Military Honors or Other Affiliations/Honors: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Notes

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Casket/Urn Bearers  
*Please include first and last names*

Honorary Bearers  
*Please include first and last names*

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

## PERMANENT PLACEMENT

☐ Place Casket or Urn in a Cemetery ☐ Take Urn Home

Type of Placement: ☐ Ground Plot ☐ Mausoleum ☐ Columbarium/Niche ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Cemetery Name: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ This plot/niche has already been purchased ☐ This plot/niche has not yet been purchased

Section/Lot Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Headstone/Marker: ☐ Already in place ☐ Not yet in place

Other Notes

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# OBITUARY INFORMATION

*If there is to be no obituary, disregard this page.*

Publish Obituary: ☐ On StewartBaxter.com ☐ In the following newspapers: \_\_\_\_\_

Include Photo: ☐ Yes ☐ No *If yes, please bring it to the funeral home, or send a digital copy to your funeral director*

## Surviving Family Members to List:

*If two or more share a relation (children, grandchildren) list oldest to youngest. May include pets, friends, or anyone else of significance.*

Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____
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Name: _____	Relation: _____
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Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____

## Preceded In Death By:

*If two or more share a relation (children, grandchildren) list oldest to youngest. May include pets, friends, or anyone else of significance.*

Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____
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Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____
Name: _____	Relation: _____

# OBITUARY INFORMATION CONTINUED

*If there is to be no obituary, disregard this page.*

## Upbringing & Backstory:

*(Please include position/title and years active if applicable)*

Place Born & Places Lived

Schooling & Academics

Notable Employment

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## Activities & Community Involvement:

*(Please include position/title and years active if applicable)*

Interests & Hobbies

Organizations & Memberships

Church & Volunteer Information

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## Favorite Things

*Sometimes the little things make all the difference*

Favorite Colors

Favorite Teams

Favorite Flowers

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Favorite Places

Favorite Songs

Favorite Books/Shows/Movies

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# OTHER DETAILS TO CONSIDER

*If there is to be no obituary, disregard this page.*

## Thought Provoking Questions *These may not be easy to answer*

What are the first words that come to mind when you think of your loved one?

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How would you describe them to someone who never met them?

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What stories do you always tell about them?

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What traditions or habits of theirs will you continue?

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## Other Important Details *What else should be included?*

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# STEWART BAXTER

FUNERAL & MEMORIAL SERVICES

*More Personal. Less Stressful.*

It's important to take the time to acknowledge the uniqueness of the deceased: the individuality of their personality, and the uniqueness of their life's path. Not just for them, but for you; it affirms the relationship, and leads to healing after loss.

Honoring their life is truly an act of love – for the both of you.

Stewart Baxter Funeral & Memorial Services excels at helping families create unique experiences for memorializing a loved one. Whether in addition to a traditional service or as a standalone service, we can create something that distinctly celebrates the life and interests of a person.

A unique life celebration can involve a custom playlist, live music, poetry readings, a favorite food, or anything else you can imagine.

The presence of a loved one's interests or belongings can make these services extremely powerful and uplifting. It can be as simple as having items from a hobby or interest present, or can involve an activity like sharing recipes or writing and collecting memories to share.

Our staff is here to help you imagine the possibilities, and select a route that works best for you.



**JACOB  
WITTROCK**  
Owner &  
Funeral Director  
[jacob@stewartbaxter.com](mailto:jacob@stewartbaxter.com)



**MASON  
WHEELER**  
Funeral Director  
[mason@stewartbaxter.com](mailto:mason@stewartbaxter.com)



**NICHOLAS  
TODD**  
Funeral Director  
[nick@stewartbaxter.com](mailto:nick@stewartbaxter.com)



**MICHELL  
MORROW**  
Funeral Director  
[michell@stewartbaxter.com](mailto:michell@stewartbaxter.com)