



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

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

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: _____

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

Activities & Community Involvement:
(Please include position/title and years active if applicable)

Interests & Hobbies

Organizations & Memberships

Church & Volunteer Information

Favorite Things

Favorite Colors

Favorite Teams

Favorite Flowers

Favorite Places

Favorite Songs

Favorite Books/Shows/Movies

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?

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

What stories do you always tell about them?

What traditions or habits of theirs will you continue?

Other Important Details

What else should be included?



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.



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**MASON
WHEELER**
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**NICHOLAS
TODD**
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**MICHELL
MORROW**
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