

## **ARRANGING A FUNERAL OR CREMATION – WHAT HAPPENS?**

Following a person's death, the responsibility of making final arrangements often falls on another member of the family. Many times, the person faced with this responsibility does not know what to expect or what will be required, especially if the deceased had not discussed his or her desires with other members of the family.

### **What will I need to bring to a funeral arrangement conference?**

There are many options to consider and decisions to make in planning a funeral or memorial service. However, there is standard information required and certain duties to perform regardless of the type funeral or memorial service desired.

- Biographical information about the deceased will be necessary for the completion of certain legal documents (such as the death certificate) and for preparing obituary notices.
- The Social Security number of the deceased will be needed so the funeral home can notify Social Security of the death and initiate the process for possible benefits.
- If the deceased was a veteran, the military discharge documents (usually a Form DD-214) will need to be provided so that the funeral home can apply for V.A. benefits.
- A photograph of the deceased will be helpful.
- Any of the deceased's own clothing that is to be used for viewing and burial should be brought to the funeral home.
- If jewelry is to be placed on the body for viewing, it is the responsibility of the person making arrangements to remove or have removed any jewelry that is not to be buried or cremated with the body. It would be wise to bring valuable items immediately prior to visitation and remove them immediately following the visitation period. Although our funeral home cannot be responsible for such items, our staff will assist you in placing and removing them.
- Some expenses may require payment in advance, so it would be wise to be prepared. (Have checkbook or major credit card available).

## **PLANNING A FUNERAL SERVICE WITH BURIAL**

- Funeral services can, and should, be personalized to reflect the life of the individual. The hobbies, interests, and other facets of the person's life should be incorporated into the funeral service. During the viewing or visitation period personal items, photographs, or other objects may be displayed in a variety of formats – either as table settings, or displayed on easels.

- In addition to a General Price List showing the various service options, there is a printed Casket Price List showing the caskets our funeral home has in stock or available by special order for immediate delivery. In addition to the printed price list, all caskets in our selection room have price cards located near each casket showing some of the distinctive features of the casket as well as the price.
- An Outer Burial Container Price List will be provided showing the various vaults and other outer burial containers offered by our funeral home, with the price listed for each. Additionally, models of the different types of burial vaults can be seen in our selection room.
- Many times the deceased has personal clothing that may be used for burial; however, we have available a complete selection of suits, dresses, shirts, ties, and underclothing.

### **MEMORIAL SERVICES AND CREMATION**

- If cremation is desired, one of the most important decisions to make is the type memorial service most appropriate to commemorate the life of the deceased. Also, a time may be scheduled to gather family and friends for a time of sharing memories and supporting each other. We have a variety of memorial service packages that may help in deciding the most appropriate service.
- North Carolina law requires that the deceased be placed in an appropriate container for the cremation. The purpose of this law is to provide dignity and respect for the deceased as well as safeguarding the health of crematory personnel. There are caskets designed specifically for cremation if a public viewing is desired prior to cremation, as well as alternative containers if the body is not to be viewed by the public.
- There are many types of urns available to permanently contain the cremated remains. There are also scattering urns to be used when the cremated remains will be scattered. We also have temporary containers available if the decision on a permanent urn will not be made until a later time.

### **OTHER ITEMS TO CONSIDER**

- We offer a variety of printed materials packages which include register books, acknowledgement cards, and memorial folders or prayer cards. Most people want to have a permanent record of those who attended the funeral or memorial service.
- A new service Van Orsdel Funeral Chapels is proud to offer is the Video Memorial Presentation. With this program, we obtain photographs from the family that are scanned by computer and shown during the visitation or at another time. This presentation can then be accessed through our website – the family can provide friends and relatives with the password needed to view this presentation over the internet from anywhere in the world. DVD or VHS format copies of the Video Memorial Presentation are available.

### **THIRD PARTY EXPENSES**

In addition to the funeral home's charges, there may be other expenses from third party providers, such as florists, hairdressers, musicians, cemeteries, etc. These third party providers often require payment in advance.

### **IN CONCLUSION**

This document is not intended to list all the many options available, but to stimulate ideas about the possibilities. Your funeral director can offer additional suggestions that can help you plan a meaningful and appropriate service.