

Words of Remembrance

(optional)

* *The Words of Remembrance are spoken after communion, just before the final blessing.*

One member of the family, or a representative of the family, may offer words of remembrance during the funeral liturgy. The Words of Remembrance will be shared near the end of the service, just before the final blessing.

If this option is chosen, the words that will be spoken must be typed and given to the presider at least 24 hours prior to the funeral liturgy (maximum length: one page, single spaced, 500 words). Outlines only will NOT be considered. The presider will have the option to make edits.

There are three parts to the ***Words of Remembrance***.

1. First, it is fitting that you thank people for coming to join you and your family in the celebration of your loved one's life.
2. Next, you will want to offer a story or anecdote about your loved one. This is often a difficult challenge. The words of remembrance are not meant to be a eulogy, nor an attempt to capture an individual's entire life, but rather a glimpse into what was particularly meaningful about the love and friendship your loved one offered.
3. And finally, conclude by thanking those present for having joined in prayer and song as we continue to remember and celebrate the life of your loved one and our faith in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

The sample ***Words of Remembrance*** on the following page is included to assist you in preparing your own.

Words of Remembrance

(sample)

On behalf of my mom and brother, our family and friends here today we extend our sincere thanks to all of you for being here to honor my dad and celebrate his life.

We all spent time during the last few days reminiscing about Dad. One common theme that comes up again and again was Dad's enthusiastic love of life. He really embraced it. Part of this stemmed from his remarkable ability to connect with other people by taking an active interest in what they were about. He could strike up a conversation with anyone and some of these informal conversations with complete strangers led to lifelong friendships. His ability to relate to kids and make them laugh caused kids of all ages to gravitate to him.

Dad was an exceptional motivator and he served as a mentor to many at his work. But he especially motivated us kids, in whom he unconditionally believed, even if we at times doubted ourselves. He really had a way of instilling confidence in us, whether he was coaching Kevin and his friends in Little League baseball or inspiring each of us to work hard in school.

Of course, one cannot talk about my dad without thinking of my mom at his side. They really did everything together from the time they were high school sweethearts. Mom and Dad spent months together traveling and spending time with their grandchildren. Mostly, they treasured the everyday quiet times, with Mom at Dad's every beck and call, refilling his iced tea, while he doted on her in his own way. I know that no one will miss him more than my mom, because, as Dad would say, "Mom, you're the best."

So today we gather to remember my dad, to rejoice in his life, and to celebrate his irrepressible spirit. Thank you all again for your love and support.