

# Planning the Celebration of Your Life

## I. Family History

### A. Parents

1. Where are they from? Is there anything interesting about them.

### B. Siblings

1. Name
2. Address (physical and email)
3. Phone numbers (including cell phones)
4. Position in the family (first born, etc.)
5. Other information you want to include about your siblings (for example, "do not contact them" or "contact them first")

## II. Your History

### A. Birth

1. Date and Time (if you know it)
2. Location (hospital, city, state)
3. Are there any special circumstances regarding your birth?

### B. Schooling

1. Elementary/Middle School
  - a. Name and Location of School
  - b. Special elementary school friends (names, addresses, phone numbers)
  - c. Stories from elementary school years
  - d. Honors received
2. High School
  - a. Name and Location of School

b. Special high school friends that you still contact

c. Stories from high school years

d. Honors received in high school

**3. College**

a. Name and location of the Universities you attended

b. Degree's received

c. College friends that you still contact (names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses)

d. Stories from college years

e. Honors received

**C. Military Service (if applicable)**

1. Branch of Service

2. Highest rank you received

3. Wars in which you fought

4. Stories you want people to know about your time in the service

5. Honors received

**III. Family Years**

**A. Spouse**

1. Name

2. His/Her History

3. Where/how you met

4. Date you were married

5. **Special stories or memories about your spouse or anything you want to include**

**B. Children**

1. **Names and ages of children and where are they now (include addresses and phone numbers)**

2. **Any special memories about your children or stories you want to include**

3. **Where did you live during the years that your children were living with you?**

**IV. Working Experience**

**A. Work history-companies for whom you worked, dates and locations**

**B. Special stories or memories during the time that you worked**

**C. Special friends you made during your work years (names, addresses, emails, phone numbers)**

**D. Are you retired, if so, when did that happen?**

**E. Special honors or awards you received when working.**

**F. Volunteer Efforts**

1. **List your volunteer activities, include descriptions, dates, boards on which you sat and your position on that board**

2. **Talk about your favorite volunteer activity or the non-profit organization dearest to your heart. Would you like to have people donate to any special organization in lieu of flowers for your memorial service?**

**V. Hobbies, Interests, Talents, Sports Played**

**A. Hobbies**

**B. Interests**

**C. Talents**

**D. Sports Played**

1. List sport and the years you played that sport
2. Honors you received regarding your years playing sports
3. Special or unique stories regarding sports

**VI. Spiritual Life Story**

**A. Birth**

1. When did you become a Christian?
2. Did it happen slowly from the time you were a child or was there a specific date and time and situation?

**B. Churches you have attended**

1. Years at each church
2. Your activities at each church

**C. Testimonies**

1. Most Christians have one or more stories about how God has impacted their life, times where you were in a bad predicament and God carried you through
2. List any healing stories you might have.
3. Have there been any miracles in your life?
4. How do you think your life would be different if you had not accepted Christ as your savior?
5. There are so many ways to approach a testimony. You may have quite a few stories. Write down as many as you can. This will be very special for the people who love you and are your survivors.
6. Special lessons or nuggets of wisdom you might not have passed on to your loved ones, yet.
7. Talk about the importance of your faith and how it has grown over the years.
8. Let your loved ones know how you feel about their walk in faith. Include your dreams and aspirations for them.

## **VII. Financial Matters**

- A. Trust/Will/Living Will- Include a copy of these documents or describe where they can be found.**
- B. Living Will-Having a living will can be a huge benefit for your loved ones in the event that they are forced to make difficult decisions without your input.**
- C. Organ Donor-talk about your wishes regarding being an organ donor**
- D. Your Property**
  - 1. Personal Items-List any personal items you want to pass on to your loved ones and list the person you want to receive that item. This is over and above what is in your will.**
  - 2. Include any letters or journals you want your loved ones to have or let your loved ones know where to find these items. It is important to let them know which person is to receive these items.**
  - 3. Your Bible-do you want to pass on your bible to anyone special? Where is your bible located?**

## **VIII. Funeral Plans**

- A. Do you want to be buried or cremated?**
- B. Have you looked into a crematorium? List the name, location and phone number of the crematorium.**
- C. How and where do you want your ashes spread?**
- D. Have you chosen a cemetery where you want to be buried? Have you purchased a burial plot or do you have a family plot?**
- E. What do you want written on your gravestone?**

## **IX. Service Wishes**

- A. Church and Location**

- B. Would you like your service at any particular time?**
- C. List the pastor/minister you would like to lead the service. Do you have any special instructions for that person?**
- D. Type of Service-Do you want your service to be a celebration of your life or do you want it to be more somber?**
- E. Approximate length of the service**
- F. Music**
- 1. List your favorite songs from the hymnal**
  - 2. List your favorite Christian artists. What are your favorite songs that they sing? Do you have CD's of those artists and songs? Where can we find those CD's? Are there any songs that you specifically want included in your service?**
  - 3. Are there any people in the music community of your church who you would like to sing or play music?**
- G. Favorite Verses**
- 1. List your favorite verses from the Bible**
  - 2. List your favorite verses or sayings from other sources.**
- H. Eulogy Speakers**
- 1. Who do you want to speak at your memorial service and how do we contact those people (name, address, phone, e-mail address)?**
  - 2. Is there anything special that you want them to know?**
- I. Photographs/Pictures**
- 1. Include in this document copies of the pictures you would like to have shown at your memorial service. Do you want this done as a slide show? List the picture/s you would like to have included in the program.**
  - 2. Make sure the names and dates are written on the back of the pictures.**
- J. Reception after the memorial service/burial**
- 1. Where would you like this to take place (include time of day)?**

2. **Food-Do you want your guests to sit down to a complete meal-breakfast, lunch, or dinner, or do you want casual finger food-appetizers etc.? What drinks do you want to be served?**
3. **Do you want this food catered or do you have people in mind who could prepare the food? If you want the food to be catered, suggest a few caterers (name, phone number)?**
4. **Are there any special decorations or colors for the decorations?**
5. **How should your reception be financed? If you have saved money for the occasion, make sure it is available to the person you put in charge of the event.**

## **X. Obituary**

**A. Look at some obituaries in the newspaper to get some ideas on what you might want to include in yours. Then sit down and write a sample obituary. You might want to include:**

1. **your full name,**
2. **high lights of your life (include any special honors or events in your life),**
3. **the church you attend,**
4. **List any organizations or causes that are close to your heart in case people want to make a donation in lieu of flowers**
5. **Write down any verses or sayings that are special to you,**
6. **List the survivors in your family, including your wife (you may want to say how long you have been married), your children or special family members.**

**B. What picture do you want put in your obituary?**

**C. In what newspapers do you want your obituary?**

1. **You might consider the newspaper where you spent most of your life or where you were born.**
2. **Think about the people in the community who might want to know that you have died.**

3. **Include the name of the newspaper/s and the phone number of the obit department.**
4. **Obituaries can be expensive so find out the cost before you write six pages about your life.**
5. **How do you want your loved ones to pay for your obituary?**

## **XI. Who to Contact Upon Your Death**

- A. **List the people you want your loved ones to contact upon your death.**
- B. **Include names, relationships, addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses.**