

Sample 1: A Complete and Inclusive Formal Memorial Tribute

An all-inclusive memorial tribute has something for everyone built-in to the presentation. You can enlist the help of family and friends to divide the component of the tribute among them, so each is responsible for one part.

A. Greeting and Eulogy

Begin with a general greeting that segues into a eulogy, since a eulogy isn't confined to a funeral. The eulogy should illustrate the deceased's personality and portray their life. It's always best if the person being eulogized is presented in such a way that is endearing and evokes an emotional response. If this is too big a job for one person, enlist two people to share in presenting the eulogy so they can offer each other moral support.

B. Poetry Reading

Reading a poem is a nice way to eulogize a person. Select a poem that best fits the person's ideology and philosophy. If the deceased has a favorite poem, then you can use it.

C. Collection of Cards or Letters

Another nice aspect of a memorial tribute is to get others involved. Part of the tribute can be dedicated to people sharing their memories of the deceased. You can do this by using cards where they can write a brief account of the memory. For those who need more wordcount, encourage them to write a letter to the family of the deceased. Request attendees do this prior to the tribute. Provide a pretty basket or decorative box for them to deposit their cards/letters when they first arrive.

D. Album of Photographs

Most people have at least one favorite photo of themselves and the deceased. Ask those invited to the tribute to make a copy of their favorite picture to add to a photo album. Place the album on a table with a candle and flower arrangement. Each person will then add their photo to the album.

E. Deceased's Favorite Songs

Put someone who knew the deceased well in charge of providing the music for the memorial tribute. Two to three songs should be enough for a typical service. These can be something as simple as a playlist or live music. Provide attendees with a lyric sheet for each song and instruct them to encourage everyone to singalong.

F. Video Compilation of the Deceased's Life

If you and other family members and friends have video of the deceased, designate one or more people to work on creating a video show for the memorial tribute. Assign someone to take over the technical aspect and presenting it at the tribute.