

Memorial Service Outline (Secular)

A Guided Order for Honoring a Life with Meaning and Remembrance

Prelude Music

- Soft instrumental or meaningful music as guests arrive
- Consider selections that reflect your loved one
- Creates a reflective atmosphere

Welcome & Gathering Words

- Opening words of welcome.
- May include a poem, reflection, or words of remembrance

Opening Sentences

- We gather today to honor and remember the life of your loved one
- Include birth details, relationships, and meaningful roles
- *Example:* We gather today to honor the life of (Name), born in (City) on (Date), to (Parents). They were a son/daughter/brother/sister/wife/husband/grandparent/great-grandparent/friend

Music Reflection

- Meaningful song or instrumental piece
- Optional photo slideshow

Readings

- A meaningful reading (poem, prose, or literary passage)

Life Tribute / Eulogy

- A tribute honoring the life, character, and legacy

Music (Optional)

- Play video tribute (optional)

Sharing of Memories and Stories (Optional)

- You may invite family and friends to share brief stories about the person

Words of Gratitude

- Expressions of gratitude for a life well lived (*see examples for words of gratitude*)

Closing Reflection / Words of Remembrance

- Words that honor the life lived and the impact made

Examples:

- We take a moment now to honor and remember (Name). Though their life has ended, the love they shared, the lessons they taught, and the memories we carry remain with us. May we continue to reflect their kindness, their strength, and their spirit in the way we live our own lives.
- We remember (Name) with gratitude and love. Their life made a difference, and that difference lives on in each of us.

Closing Words

- Thank those gathered
- Encourage carrying forward what they have learned from your loved one
- You may name a few qualities or adjectives that defined their life

Closing Music

- Music plays as guests greet and support the family