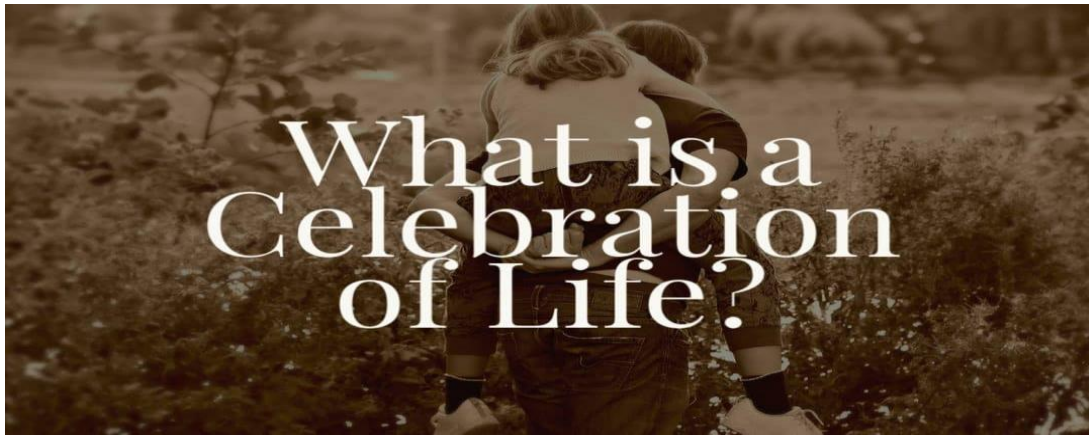


Celebration of Life Ideas for your Loved One



As time marches by, terms change and expectations or desires do also. In the past several years the term Celebration of Life has joined our standard daily language as we aspire to create a lasting legacy for those we have held so closely to our hearts.

We come together to celebrate a person who means more to us than can be placed on paper. They wear many hats as caretakers or dream weavers...our miracle workers...and our devoted loves. When it comes time for a celebration, we are often at a loss of how to display a life with hobbies skills, passions, occupations or unique personality traits that create the lives we love. Below are unique inspired themes that can help you capture what made your loved one the ones you were proud of, the one you loved, and the one that gave you inspiration to be the person you have become.

Inspiration by PASSION



ANIMAL LOVER: Invite the SPCA to host an adoption event in your loved one's memory or donations sent to your local SPCA

CHEF/GRILL MASTER: Sunday Supper the specialty.... a recipe exchange or book with your loved one's handwriting included...have a meal catered with loved ones gather of foods he or she like

If BBQ was a thing...share his or her rub recipe or taste test BBQ from eateries.

Baking: make her favorite or famous cakes for everyone...give wooden spoons as give aways

Bingo: Invite friends over for an afternoon of games...print personalized cards with facts of loved one's life

Broadway: Make personalized playbills for service

Host/Hostess with the most: Does he or she know how to make everyone feel welcome: set a home with favorite flowers/ quilts and serve appetizers

Travel: Create a passport and fill suitcases with souvenirs or maps from favorite places...Cater food surrounding favorite destination

Sports: For the Cheerleader: Hot dogs and popcorn on the menu with pennants of favorite teams

Baseball: Pennants/jersey of favorite team...ask to wear team colors...serve chili dogs

Basketball: Shoot for hoops...team colors...mini basketballs with team colors

Football: Designate a tailgate...flatscreens...put a game on...burgers...team colors/clothes

Racing: Black and white checkered tablecloths...show races on the flatscreen

Volunteer: Follow in their steps...organize an afternoon of delivering meals to the elderly...clean a stretch of highway...repaint a classroom...adopt a class...gift to organizations such as Cancer Kids and Christmas or volunteer for the auction

Volunteer Groups (i.e.: Kiwanas/Lions/Masons/Rotary) ...serving at the heart was a passion...organize with the groups an outing for friends and family.

Car lover: do they like to tinker.... put the car out front of the funeral home...show off the tools...do a car show...

Boater: meet for a ceremony at the dock where he/she kept the boat invite guests to go on one sunset cruise

Outdoors: pitch a tent and kick off with campfire stories...send everyone home with smores packets

Safari: Leopard/Cheetah...zebra...go on a safari with the wild photos

Symphony: invite guests to a string quartet evening...invite a lovely voice to sing in her memory...on invites or décor use music notes or music...

Trivia: host around the facts of your loved one's life...can the guest tell the real first date?

Wine: order cases and share with a cheeseboard...celebrate on a birthday...

INSPIRATION BY HOBBY



Artist/Crafts: turn the funeral home into an art gallery...hang some work

Host a silent auction of art and gift to a local charity

Do a craft night for charity or paint night

Matte a picture he or she did and have guests to sign matt

Have an art show for photography and serve appetizers...place those canons out for we know he/she took those everywhere they went

Drape creations of knitting or quilts over benches/chairs...present to special family...

Antiquing: Set up Reception room with abundance of Mom's Treasures

Baseball Card Collector: frame coveted cards and display with memorabilia at tables for service

Gardener: decorate tables with hand tied bouquets and send guests home with cuttings from garden; Offer guest favorite tools or books to take home; Show pictures of those proud years where she/he was most proud of the harvest; send home seed packets/plants to continue growth

Reading: Clear the bookshelves and stamp her name...gift as gifts as you would like.... or display her favorite titles throughout the service/reception

Bird Watcher: invite friends to conservatory...let nature be backdrop...display binoculars and birding books at reception

Biker: Nothing like an open highway: dress code is leather...serve favorite roadside diner food for reception

Cycling: book bikes and ride to the deceased playlist; participate in a charity ride; gather after for favorite snack

Cards: Have a game night; invite fellow players and have decks gifted to guests (if players played daily with person in a game like bridge have deck personalized

Bowler: reserve a few lanes at the alley divide guest into teams...

Have friends and family use a sharpie to sign favorite bowling ball or a bowling pin

Golfer: Clubs are front and center; have everyone dress in green

Serve Arnold Palmers (Tea and Lemonade) and pimento Cheese Sandwich

Set up putting green outside

Send guests home with personalized golf balls and tees if reception held

Inspired by Career



Pastor: Share the worn-out Bibles.... pass out bibles to those who have none at the service...have journal entries for those whose lives he/she has touched to assist in building the Kingdom and for the Glory of God...everyone has heard his/her and your story...now it is time to tell the stories that will forever be changed for a life so loved. For it was the secret times that no one knows of that your heart was pricked....

Barber/beautician: Your customers become family...get a journal: Have guests share their favorite salon/barbershop memories.... those times they got a hug or left with a smile...

Physician/Nurse/Healthcare Provider: Display the white hat/white coat next to a candle (if a nurse...get out that nightingale candle) Add a stethoscope/tool of the trade/ ask guests to gift to a non-profit healthcare organization in lieu of flowers.

Farmer/Rancher: Ask the guest to wear boots and jeans;

If Reception, use mini tractors and fresh vegetables as centerpieces; serve a Sunday Lunch; or bring heirlooms from the farm

First Responder: That man/woman you so love was a public servant and it was his/her honor.

If a Fire Fighter...the ladder truck will be at the entrance...use his/her uniform

For Police Officer: ask to use his/her car in entrance to celebration...display uniform...

For Rescue: display unit number; Ambulance will serve in front of procession...

For all: record short videos or share in a journal, stories of what that profession means to your loved one and the impact that person had on so many

Pilot/Airline worker: Choose sky blue as theme color...supply wing pins and snacks for guests.... if making a program....design like old school airline ticket.

Journalist: Somebody knows how to research and loves to share a story...instead of a program if making one...choose a press release...cover tables at a reception with newsprint and display awards...

Teacher: They are the apple of our eyes.... the ones who gave us a foundation and for that, we are ever so thankful...Have former students read notes about the impact he/she had and start a journal that they can share the impact that life made...display class photos taken throughout the years

Construction/Carpenter: They work long and hard hours to provide for our families...display the hardhat...take pictures of the cabinets/homes he or she built...share the legacy...share the art of woodwork...display the tools...if looking for a gift...pocketsize measuring tape or flashlights...

Telephone Operator: It is quickly becoming a thing of the past, but this is what we had to keep us connected. Get old Fashioned phone booths for a photo op.... display old phones...

Fashion: Everyone come dressed to the nines...display the jewelry /bags/etc.....show the magazines at the tables...that made them ours

Interior Design: Host the celebration at the home...It shows off the talent...and display the design books

Military Veteran: there are many opportunities.... Call the Patriot Guard...if Military Service at SWVVC.... call for Jeep...Choose Patriotic Musical Selections...Bring Uniform/Pins/Photographs from years in service and proudly display

Themes for Celebrating a Life Well Lived



Beach: is the beach the happy place...bring the beach...complete with floppy hats and flip flops inside...share the shells that they couldn't go home without...hopefully we can help with the sun...

Christmas:...decorate the room in red...we can add trees...you can add some of his or her ornaments as keepsakes for certain members of the family... (NOTE at Christmas we have a theme throughout the home of Cardinals...and light) Serve Hot Chocolate (We always have hot chocolate)

Crossword: set out puzzles and have a fun competition...even a big board on the wall

Angels: Did they collect or just love them...now he or she is yours...play Angel or Calling All Angels or so many more angelic songs as background or service music

Diner: set theme to the 50s.... complete with the favorite hits...at the reception do an ice cream bar with toppings

Elvis: We have a lot of Elvis fans here...only Elvis Music...with all of the memorabilia out...Make sure to serve Peanut butter and Banana Sandwiches at the reception...oh and you can always do the t-shirts

Movies: what is the favorite movie.... put it on the wall at the reception...with any memorabilia...serve popcorn (extra Butter)...oh and those sweet snacks as in the theater

Fall: He or she lit up with the change of the leaves, the crisp morning air...Apple Cider or Pumpkin Spice.... Light up the room with the oranges and maroons.... serve the fall flavors.... Butternut Soup...Apple Pie...Pumpkin Bread...etc.

Musician: Celebrate the talent...show the instruments he or she played...ask friends to share in picking or playing...

Western: Wear those boots...play western music...and use the sunflowers/bandana décor

Game Night: Set up tables with different games (i.e.: Apples to Apples, Dominoes, Monopoly, Scrabble, Rook, etc.) ...Cheer on your loved ones...serve Pizza...and desert...

Teatime: Traditional afternoon tea...complete with Earl Gray...Orange Cinnamon...and more with scones also and cucumber sandwiches...set tables with teacups and saucers with pretty little bouquets inside...

Comic Book Collector: Don those superhero capes for the celebration...and showcase the collection for all to see....at the reception go ahead and pop in the favorite superhero movie...Superman/Batman....

Fisherman: Go to the river...go fishing...give out favorite fly ties or lures to guests...have a barbeque...

Hunter: go to the woods.... wear camo and orange....display his or her trophies...

Be inspired



As we celebrate those, we love who inspired us to change by chance...who were our heroes...We hope these simple ideas help ease your mind...if anymore ideas...keep asking we are here to always lend a helping hand and a listening ear.... Remember too...these things can be used now...or just when you need...We want to help you live your best for those you love!