Words of Remembrance vs. Eulogy

Words of Remembrance

- optional, permissible
- **brief, concise, short**
- **two or three minutes**
- one-typed page (at most)
- delivered by one person
- focuses on ***who*** the person was
- focuses on primary attribute of the deceased person
- sums up the essence of person
- gives insight into deceased person's ***faith and values*** by giving one or two examples
- answers the question**: "how did the deceased give witness to his Catholic Christian faith?"**
- fits appropriately into the context of the Church's liturgy, both for length of time and content

Eulogy (not acceptable)

- **never permitted**
- lengthy, detailed
- often considerably more than three minutes
- multiple pages, multiple speakers
- focuses on ***what*** the person did
- adds names of family relationships and genealogy
- gives a detailed chronology of the person's life accomplishments, career and family stories
- often talks about person's hobbies and recreational activities
- recounts humorous anecdotes (often not suitable for worship)
- extends the liturgy, placing undue burden on those who took time off work to attend, on funeral directors, and church ministers.

The focus of the Christian funeral rite is the saving mystery of Jesus' death and resurrection. The Church celebrates the funeral liturgy as prayer for the deceased person and the bereaved family.

Words of Remembrance are not part of the Church's official liturgy but are "permitted" as a pastoral provision.

Eulogies, in fact, are forbidden*—not by the parish, but by the Universal Church.

(OCF * 27, "but there is never to be a eulogy")

Eulogies, anecdotes, or extended remarks by family members and friends could most appropriately be made:

- ***at the funeral home during the wake***
- ***after the vigil service, or***
- ***at the funeral luncheon***

basically . . .

If it's in the obituary, it need not be and should not be contained in the Words of Remembrance