

## Tips for how to give a good funeral tribute

Decide who is going to deliver the Tribute on the day. This could be the Minister or Celebrant, a family member, a friend, a former colleague etc.

The Tribute should have a beginning, middle and ending.

The optimum length of time for a Tribute is 3-5 minutes. It is important not to overrun as it may impact on another family's funeral, particularly at the Crematorium where service times are restricted.

Preparation and research are vital to ensure that the Tribute does what is needed, it is factually accurate and leaves a good and uplifting feeling. Speak to others to find out more.

The Tribute could contain some of the following points, for example:

- Record of the life in chronological order including key life events
- Personality
- Sense of humour
- Likes and dislikes
- Hobbies and Interests
- Career
- Military career – did they serve in the Forces?
- Professional associations
- Clubs
- Memorable stories (some humour can help to lighten the atmosphere in a very positive way)
- What did you like most about them?
- What you will remember most about them?
- Their legacy – what you will miss most, why were they so special, what was their influence?
- If you could say three things about them, what would they be?
- People to thank (Carers, Doctors, Friends, Hospice, Hospital, Neighbours etc.)

Don't let nerves or concerns put you off giving a Tribute. Funerals are important and often emotional occasions; you may feel a sense of apprehension which is perfectly normal. You will be surrounded by friends and family on the day – people who will encourage and support you for doing something that they may not have the courage to do themselves.

A funeral is something that we can only do once – it has to be right. Please speak to your funeral director if you require further guidance on how to prepare and deliver your tribute.