

Burns-Garfield Funeral Home, Inc.

Elements of a Good Obituary

We believe writing an obituary is both a great honor — and a great responsibility...

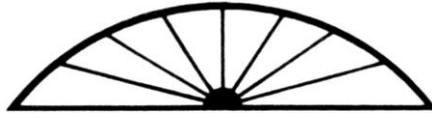
Good obituaries are about life, not death. The obituary of a loved one should provide a keepsake and invoke fond memories and publicly declare that the deceased had a real impact on the world.

The obituary is truly a life story which announces the passing of a member of the community, to which they belonged and provides mourners and friends with information in regards to the funeral and how they can pay their respects to both the deceased and surviving loved ones.

When writing an obituary you create a life story that will be read in newspapers and on the internet far into the future. It will be read by family members, loved ones, friends, acquaintances and many others who are simply interested in reading about neighbors and members of the community who have passed away.

We have prepared the following document to help families create an obituary worthy of a loved one's life story. Our hope is that using the following elements families will be able to create a meaningful piece that they are proud of that will not only inform but do justice to the deceased loved ones journey through life and be enjoyed by relatives and friends for many generations to come.

Please note that all of the following steps do not have to be included and Remember that all obits are charged on a per line basis and the length affects the cost. If you any further questions regarding placing an obituary on our website or in any other form of media, please do not hesitate to contact us



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Order of Contents

- 1) Date of death
- 2) Life story
 - place of birth, Childhood experiences, education (schools, degrees), Military Service, employment, where they lived and how long, date of marriage.
 - Make sure you include those things that really made the person who they are. If your mother was a stay at home mom who dedicated her life to her children and grandchildren, include details about the family. If your fathers nickname was “Cappy” and he attended every Remembrance Day Service since 1945 be sure to mention that. If he traveled mention it.
- 3) Personality
 - This is where your loved one gets to shine. Use only adjectives that are true of the person and avoid using cliché’s. It’s tempting to say Grandpa was kind and generous after he’s gone , but if he was a grumpy old guy, say, “he always said it like it was.”
 - You can also include personality traits
 - Things they were interested in or activities they enjoyed.
 - Anecdotes (fun little stories that show something about the person).
 - What they will be most remembered and missed for.
- 4) Family,
- 5) Thanks
 - If the death has been a long drawn process you may want to thank: doctors, nurses, hospice and neighbors and friends
 - However, while thanking someone publicly is a nice gesture , sending a personal thank-you card is just as nice and saves room in the obituary for more about the deceased.
- 6) Service Information
- 7) Condolences
 - Charity of ones choice or have flowers sent to the funeral home
 - Try to leave out the phrase, “in lieu of flowers” a flowers can be a powerful part of the funeral ritual and it’s nice for your friends to have a choice.
- 9) Photos
 - bring in any photo, group or portrait. With technology today anything is possible.