

PLEASE CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING TO OUR BOOK. READ ON:

Our book (working title, *After-Death Wishes*) will include a compilation of your thoughts on the following subject:

What exactly do you want done by others when you die?

Get the coffin ready and the man won't die. --- Chinese Proverb

Please **read everything** before doing anything. Then, answer **any or all** questions in whatever way feels comfortable for you, enriching with detail where possible. Give us your anything-goes, sky's-the-limit, ideal scenario. Don't hold back or edit yourself!

CAUTION: pondering this subject may impact the life you're now living.

"Dying seems less sad than having lived too little." -- Gloria Steinheim

1. Are you superstitious, uncomfortable, or afraid to talk about your own death? Death in general?
2. Have you talked with loved ones about your "after-death" wishes? Are you willing to?
3. If given a choice, where would you want to die? At home, hospital, hospice center, other ...?
4. What would you like to say to loved ones before you die?
5. Do you want to be cremated, buried, other?
6. Do you want a memorial service, funeral, or other means of "send off"?
7. Who would you like to perform your "service" (family, friend, clergy, specialist)?
8. What specific songs or types of music would you like, if any? At what point (during, following, etc.)? Is there a person or group you would like to perform the music?
9. What, if any, poems, readings, quotations would you like to have read and by whom? Have you considered writing a poem or statement to be used?
10. Any special requests others should know about such as: story teller, drumming circle, bag pipes, band, d.j., tap dancer, belly dancer, puppets, skits ("this was your life"), fly-over, "Taps," etc.? Remember, this is a sky's-the-limit wish list!
11. Do you have any personal effects, memorabilia, membership insignia, job-related artifacts, favorite photos or artistic creations you would like to have displayed? Would you consider gathering them and making them accessible to your survivors?

12. What are your favorite flowers, colors and arrangement styles? Where would you like flowers donated following your service?
13. Are there charitable donations (money, library books, scholarships, etc.) you would prefer in lieu of flowers?
14. How expensive do you want things to get? Remember, loved ones can be “influenced” into overspending. (Have you set aside money/insurance?)
15. Do you have a desired place for your burial, urn placement, or scattering of ashes?
16. Do you want a gravestone, other marker, or eternal light at your burial place? Do you want a bench, living memorial, etc. at some other site?
17. a). How do you want your name spelled out?
b). Do you want an epitaph (quotation, biblical line, etc.) printed out?
18. Have you attended a memorable funeral or memorial service? What made it so? What elements would you borrow for yourself?
19. *** Please share any interesting or unusual anecdotes that have come to mind while doing this questionnaire. E.g., the old timer who loved to hunt and was laid out in full hunting regalia; ashes distributed in muffin cups on a cookie sheet for family to scatter mother; the woman who wants to be buried in her own back yard with a wisteria tree and bird feeders all around; the funeral procession of old tractors for the farmer; etc. Include concrete details, please.
20. Now that you’ve experienced this questionnaire, how do you feel about preparing a “these are my ‘after-death wishes’ file” for your survivors? What would be most important for you to include? Who will know where this file is? Consider updating at regular intervals such as birthday, solstice, day light savings, ground hog day, etc.
21. Would you attend or consider throwing a “let’s-talk-about-death” party and toss around ideas or share stories?
22. Would you consider answering follow-up questions to this survey?
24. May we use your name or do you prefer to remain anonymous if we use any or all of your responses for this book?
25. If you don’t care what happens to you after death, that’s fine. However, consider how this leaves your loved ones.

COMMENTS: Has this been a comfortable and/or worthwhile experience for you?

Name: _____

Date: _____

Phone # (s) _____; email _____

Mailing Address:

PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

To:

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or

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[Please note that we may want to use only a portion of an answer or your entire response(s) and will let you know.]