

Memorial service wishes – Steven Allan Long
(As of 2014-02-22)

Please keep the service upbeat!

If you can pull it off easily, I love the idea of showing a slideshow of some memorable – and some funny – pictures. It doesn't have to be as formal as Greg Loomis' but that set a great mood for his celebration of life! Having my ashes in a cheap urn or coffee can would be great.

I'd love to have a few close family members and/or friends make comments. Again, keep it light!

Then, if you'd like, maybe you pick a few songs and scriptures to sprinkle in here.

Songs (maybe pick 3 or 4 of these, based on Kim, Cliff & Sammy thoughts)
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I Will See You Again (pick this one please!)
I Was There to Hear Your Boring Cry
His Eye is on the Sparrow
Hymn of Promise (#707 in Methodist hymnal)
I'll Fly Away (with extra verse) – by Chapel Folk members, if we're still "together"
On Eagles' Wings
What Have You Done to Lift Somebody Up? – Chapel Folk performing, with "LP verse"
 like I did at Gavin's funeral?
Turn, Turn, Turn
Lean on Me
I Will See You Again (yep, listed it again! :-)) didn't want you to miss it)
Have Kim, Cliff, Sammy pick songs they like that remind them of me (James Taylor –
 You've Got a Friend or ???)
Canadian Brass version mixing Hallelujah Chorus with The Saints Go Marching In

Scripture

Psalm 23 (maybe with "God's Psychiatry" perspective from 1-page sheet)
Luke 11: 5-13
Matthew 5: 3-12
Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 ("Turn, Turn, Turn" passage)
John 14 – many rooms scripture
James 4:14 (Peter Marshall sermon about death right on Sunday of Pearl Harbor attack
– father lovingly taking son from his parents' bedroom to his own room)

This is a really nice "Unison Prayer to the Holy Spirit" that is a Traditional Native American Prayer. It was done in Greg Anderson's celebration and I like it a lot if you'd decide to use it in my celebration

O Great Spirit,
 whose breath gives life to the world,
 and whose voice is heard in the soft breeze:
We need your strength and wisdom.
Cause us to walk in beauty.
 Give us eyes ever to behold the red and purple sunset.
Make us wise so that we may understand
 what you have taught us.
Help us learn the lessons you have hidden
 in every leaf and rock.
Make us always ready to come to you
 with clean hands and steady eyes,
So when life fades, like the fading sunset,
 our spirits may come to you without shame. Amen.

I really like this unison Prayer of Commendation we read near the end of Ken Lazarus's memorial. Feel free to insert it if it seems right....

Into your hands, O merciful Savior,
we commend your servant Steve.
Acknowledge, we humbly pray,
a sheep of your own fold,
a lamb of your own flock,
a sinner of your own redeeming.
Receive him into the arms of your mercy,
into the blessed rest of everlasting peace,
and into the glorious company
of the saints in light. Amen.

Please decorate the location with pictures, slideshows, etc. of our life experiences with family & friends plus bright colored items depicting my life. This is a happy occasion - recalling a life lived with good people, incredible blessings, sharing of gifts and a love of nature and all it brings!

Maybe give each person a copy of some favorite quotes or a poem?

- "Don't cry because it's over. Smile because it happened." Dr. Seuss
- Copies of "When I end this Mortal Shore..."
- Have copies available of the prose I wrote about life and death "At the end of a lifetime"?

Give people a seed or Dafodil bulbs to take home to brighten a place where they live?