Eulogy Template

The parts in CAPITAL LETTERS are headings that show you the structure of the funeral speech. You don’t include them in your speech.

INTRODUCTION

A famous writer once said “We make a living by what we get, we make a life by what we give”.

If that is true, then _______ (name of deceased) made a great life. He/She was the most giving person I’ve ever known. And judging from the nodding heads I see in front of me, it seems that many of you agree.

EARLY LIFE

_________ (name) was born __________ (full birth name) on ________ (their birthdate) in _______ (city). He/She was the _______ (first, second, only) child of _______ (name of loved one’s father) and _______ (name of loved one’s mother). They lived in _______ (city) from ______ (year) to ______ (year), and later moved to ______ and _______.

SCHOOLING AND WORK

_________ (name) went to _______ and _______ (name of schools) and graduated with _______ (name of degree or training). He/She then went to work for _______ (name of company) as a _______ (name of position). Over the years, _______ (name) also worked for _______, _______, and _______ (name of other companies) OR also worked in _______ and _______ (type of job, e.g. sales, teaching, farming, homemaking).

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

In _______ (year) _______ (name) met _______ (name of spouse) and they were married _____ (number) years later. Eventually they had __ (number) children, _______, _______ and _______ (names of their children). Last year, _______ (name) and _______ (spouse’s name) celebrated their _____ (number, e.g. 50th) wedding anniversary.

HOBBIES AND SERVICE

_________ (name) was very active in the ________ (church, community, local theatre, quilting, volunteer firefighting). He/She devoted many hours to _______ (hobby or service) and was known for _______ (what person was known for in the hobby or service, e.g. her exquisite quilt designs; always being ready with a helping hand; always having a positive attitude).
MEMORIES

I asked family and friends to tell me what they remember most about ______ (name). There are so many good memories. __________. __________. __________. __________. (list 5 or 6 memories in short sentence form, e.g. Playing music together. Fishing at Ajax Lake. His big hearty laugh. The time we went to Disneyland and Susie got lost).

One that I remember in particular is the time when __________ (tell a longer story that illustrates your loved one’s personality – this can be a heart-warming story or a humorous story).

SUMMING UP

_______ (name) was a remarkably _________ (an adjective, e.g. good; thoughtful; hardworking; fun-loving) person. He/She was a person of great _______ and ________ (two words that describe the person’s character, e.g. devotion, integrity, love, compassion, service, humor).

Above all, ________ (name) believed in _________ (the person’s highest value, e.g. family, faith, hard work, independence, community, compassion). He/She always said “__________” (a common saying that illustrates the person’s highest value, e.g. “family is the most important thing in life”; “you get out of life what you put into it”; “life is short, so enjoy it while you can!”)

Those are words of wisdom that I will always cherish.

In closing, I would like to share this poem with you:

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there, I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.
I am the diamond glint on snow.
I am the sunlight on ripened grain.
I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you wake in the morning hush,
I am the swift, uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft starlight at night.

Do not stand at my grave and weep.
I am not there, I do not sleep.

_______, (name) thank you for being part of our lives. We are all going to miss you.