

## GRAVESIDE COMMITTAL SERVICE

*Cemetery procedures and customs vary from area to area. We wish to acquaint you with what will take place on the day of the burial services.*

**GRAVE:** The grave location will be opened on the morning of the service. Grass cloth will be placed around the grave opening. There will be covered burial equipment present, which cannot be removed. Six to eight chairs will be set up for the immediate family. There will be no canopies at the gravesite.

**FLORAL PIECES:** The Funeral Director will deliver all floral arrangements from previous services to the cemetery before you arrive. All floral arrangements that are brought to the cemetery will be displayed at the grave. Upon conclusion of the committal service, the casket piece and two other floral arrangements will be placed on the finished grave for a period of three days. If you wish to choose which pieces will remain on the grave, let the Service Counselor on duty know after the service. All other arrangements not taken by the family will be disposed of immediately after the committal service.

**PARKING:** Funeral guests may park anywhere along the paved road except where otherwise posted. Guests are encouraged to follow the Funeral Director-led procession.

**WEATHER:** Occasionally, inclement weather may cause committal services to be rescheduled to the chapel, pavilion, or the mausoleum. Cemetery Management will make this decision on the morning of the service. All possible efforts will be made to inform you or your Funeral Director prior to your arrival if this is necessary.

**ARRIVAL: Full Casket Burial** If you are coming from the funeral home or church, you will follow the procession, led by the funeral coach (hearse). The coach will stop at the front office to deliver a burial permit. PLEASE REMAIN IN YOUR CARS. A Service Counselor will then lead the procession of cars to the grave. If you are meeting the funeral director at the cemetery on the day of the burial, please check in at the front office. A Service Counselor will escort you to the grave.

**Cremation Urn** Whether you bring the cremated remains of your love with you to the cemetery on the day of the service or if we are holding the cremated remains for you please check in at the front office. A Service Counselor will escort you to the grave.

**SET-UP: Casket/Pallbearers** The coach will park at the curb nearest to the grave. Pallbearers will remove the casket from the coach, carry it to the grave, and placed it on a lowering device above the open grave. Cemetery field personnel will assist. When necessary, cemetery personnel will transport the casket from the curb to the grave.

**Cremation/Urn** There will be a small table set up at the grave. The urn may be placed on the table during the committal service. If you would like to bring photographs or other mementos, please inform the Service Counselor so that an appropriate size table will be available.

**COMMITTAL SERVICE:** For a traditional Catholic committal service, prayers will last approximately fifteen minutes. Chairs are provided for the immediate family, others will stand during the committal service. Pallbearers will then be asked to place their flowers and gloves (if provided) on top of the casket. Family and guests may then want to take individual flowers out of the floral arrangements and place them on the casket. The service will conclude at this point.

**WITNESS LOWERING:** For those families who wish to witness the lowering of the casket, please note the following. All lowerings will take place immediately following the committal service, unless weather does not permit.

**WITNESS BACKFILL:** If viewing the backfilling of the grave is requested, the exact time cannot be scheduled until the morning of the service. Scheduling is based on cemetery operational demands. There may be a delay of several minutes or several hours before a backfill may be completed.

Backfilling requires the use of heavy machinery. For your safety, you will be asked to stand back at least 25 feet from the grave in order for the backfill to take place. Regardless of whether you choose to witness this or not, the backfill will be completed by 4:00pm on the day of the service.

**TIMING/SCHEDULING:** The cemetery schedules services with the intention of providing the best possible service to all of our families. If your party arrives at the cemetery earlier or later than the scheduled time, or your service lasts longer than anticipated we will do everything possible to accommodate your needs but in the event that other services may be finishing or starting there could be a delay in the start or completion of your service. Some families gather after the committal service for the sharing of food and music. You are welcome to stay as long as you wish. We do ask families to be sensitive to other families that may be conducting a service close to your area. In such cases, cemetery staff may ask you to maintain a quiet environment and for example not play music until the other family's services have concluded. We appreciate your cooperation in helping us provide a peaceful and prayerful environment for all.

**I have read and understand the cemetery's committal procedures.**

**Sign:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_