**A Eulogy Template**

[The words in all CAPITAL LETTERS are headings. They are here to show you the structure of the funeral speech. Don’t include them when you read the eulogy.]

**INTRODUCTION**

I’d like to start off in my thoughts about \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_ with a poem that so fits this occasion. It’s called “The Dash.”

**'The Dash"**
by Linda Ellis

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.
He referred to the dates on her casket from beginning to the end.
He noted that first came the date of her birth and spoke of the following date with tears,
But he said what mattered most of all was the dash between those years.
For that dash represents all the time that she spent alive on earth
And now only those who loved her know what that little line is worth.
For it matters not, how much we own, the cars, the house, the cash,
What matters is how we live and love and how we spend our dash.
So think about this long and hard; Are there things you would like to change?
For you never know how much time is left that can still be rearranged.
If we could just slow down enough to consider what is true and real
And always try to understand the way other people feel.
And be less quick to anger and show appreciation more
And love the people in our lives like we have never loved before.
If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile,
Remembering that this special dash might only last a little while.
So when your eulogy is being read with your life’s actions to rehash…
Would you be proud of the things they say about how you spent your dash?

I feel like that man standing to speak. My words, like his, are about the ‘dash’ that represents \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_’s life. The dash is just a tiny mark but that dash stands for a life lived well and I am honored to talk about his life today.

 \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_ was the most giving  person I’ve ever known. I see some of you nodding your heads. You know what I mean. He/she gave of him/herself freely and generously. If he/she saw a need, he/she did whatever was necessary to help. \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_ was the kind of person we all want to be.

**EARLY LIFE**

  \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_was born in  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (city) \_\_\_ years ago. He/she grew up with \_\_\_ brothers and sisters: \_\_\_\_ (name them)\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_ was the (oldest, youngest, middle child). They had a pretty good life in those growing-up years. They weren’t rich by any means, but their family was filled with love and I’m pretty sure that’s how \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_ got to be the wonderful man/woman he/she was. He/she learned from growing up as he/she did...

**SCHOOLING AND WORK**

\_\_\_(name)\_\_\_went to \_\_\_\_(name of schools)\_\_\_ and graduated with a degree in  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_). He/She worked for \_\_\_ (name of company)\_\_\_ as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name of position) for \_\_\_\_ years. \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_ also worked for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for a while. While he/she loved his/her work, what he/she really enjoyed were the people he/she worked with. He/she always told stories of some of the things they did at work that probably weren’t too work related but a lot of fun. (tell a story if  you have one).

**MARRIAGE AND FAMILY**

In \_\_(year)\_\_\_ \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_ met \_\_ (name  of spouse)\_\_\_ and they were married for \_\_\_  years. \_\_\_(spouse’s name)\_\_, you are going to miss \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_ SO much. You have all of our sympathy.  \_\_\_(spouse’s name) and \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_ had \_\_\_ children, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (names of their children). They have \_\_\_ grandchildren: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_.  I do hope that all the pictures of \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_ and the stories about him/her will live on in their memories and in their homes so that the grandkids will never forget this fine man/woman and the strong example he/she set.

**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 terms of  hobby or service, e.g. her exquisite quilt  designs; always being ready with a helping hand; always having a positive attitude).

**MEMORIES**

I asked some of \_\_\_(name’s)\_\_\_ 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 sentences, (e.g. Playing music together. Fishing at  Long Lake. His wonderful sense of humor. The time we went to the Cassino and couldn’t find the car when we came out – we thought it had been stolen and we called the police. It was there all along). One that I remember is the time when  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (tell a longer story that highlights  your loved one’s personality – this can be something heart- warming or  humorous).

\_\_\_(name)\_\_\_ was a wonderfully \_\_(kind/ambitious/brave/calm/faithful or other appropriate adjective or adjectives)\_\_\_ 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)\_\_\_.

We will all miss \_\_\_(name)\_\_\_. But he/she has touched our lives and we will NEVER forget him/her.