

**Sample Funeral Service for Christian Firefighter  
Chaplain Jim Burns**

**Prayer:** Holy Father, please direct this Memorial service, that it will honor the memory of our **brother/sister**, bring a degree of comfort to **his/her** family and friends, and bring honor to Your Holy Name, we pray in Jesus name. Amen.

**Greeting**

Friends, it is our unique relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ and **his/her** family, that brings us here today to pay tribute to **his/her** life, to honor **his/her** memory and to support **his/her** family in their time of loss. On behalf of the family, I want to thank you for coming; your presence is important to them, and your being here is testimony of your love for \_\_\_\_\_ and **his/her** family

**Eulogy**

\_\_\_\_\_ responded to **his/her** “last alarm.” at (time, on date),  
(Here you fill in with personal information about the life and the many relationships of the person eulogized.)

As you remember \_\_\_\_\_ you all have some fond memories.

Memory is the priceless heritage of the ages. It is the echoing voice of happy days, experiences, sad emotions, fond recollections, beautiful traditions, friendships and comradeship of those we love.

Now we want to give you an opportunity to share a memory, an experience, a fond recollection----- You may just stand where you are, tell us who you are and share (for the sake of time, I request that you try to limit your comments to a couple of minutes.....

**[Sharing of Memories]**

**Song:** (may be added here if desirable or requested by family)

**Comments from supervisor, mayor, other official**

**Comments from Fire Chief**

**Message and Closing Remarks-----Chaplain**

As you each shared your memories, I was thinking of one characteristic which I think most adequately describes \_\_\_\_\_:

(Insert a special memory of your own about the person or what you have learned from a friend or family member).

At our **brother/sister’s last alarm, he/she** moved from time into eternity--to that place Jesus went to prepare just for **him/her--** You will miss **him/her**. It will certainly take some getting used to. You will each struggle to re-define yourselves. Because \_\_\_\_\_ was a unique person who brought a certain meaning to each of your lives--as you face the future without **him/her**, you will recognize that your have been forever changed by **his/her** death-----

You, (**Names of Children**) have been cut off from your past--- your root ---Your connection with your ancestors has been severed. (**Names of brothers and sisters**) you have lost your **brother/sister**, breaking a unique link in your family chain. Members of (**Name Fire Department**) you have lost a comrade, team member and **brother/sister** ---And, **husband/wife** you are suffering the greatest loss a human can suffer---part of yourself, because (years of marriage) years ago you became One in holy matrimony. That connection has been severed-----You have lost your best friend, the one who walked along beside you---the one who kept you on your toes and challenged you most in life...

But, even in the midst of your great loss--- there is some “encouraging news.” In the 23rd Psalm, David tells us that we have One on whom we can lean-----who walks with us in this life----- who prepares a place for us beyond this life: [**read Psalm 23**]

The first bit of encouraging news I have for you today is that you don’t have to walk this “dark lonesome valley” alone. God will walk it with you. He, like no other can do, will come to you in the dead of the night and fill the emptiness you now feel--- He will wipe the tears from your eyes. He will give you the strength to go on, even when you do not feel like going on, he will help you, and in time, He will heal your wounds--- And He has given you a multitude

of friends, lean on them. That's what friends are for-----to be there for you when you need them.

The second bit of "encouraging news" is that this experience can be a growing experience for those of us left behind. We all know that our greater strength comes MORE out of the bad times than in the good times. It was because of the challenges \_\_\_\_\_ faced in life that **he/she** became such a strong person, such a solid rock in the face of difficulty---that **he/she** was able to smile no matter what....In **his/her** weakness he/she found the strength of Christ...He/she learned to rely completely on Him... To rest in Him...It was in **his/her** weakness that **he/she** found that peace that passes all human understanding. Sorrow, pain, suffering, abandonment, the death of a close friend or family member can be used of God to strengthen us. In times like this, we often have the down-time needed to reflect, to evaluate, and to make needed adjustments to the course of our own lives. When we think of \_\_\_\_\_ and the impact **he/she** has had on our lives, we may be prompted to ask: What difference will my life make??? Often in times of grief, after we have hurt, and wrestled through the process of grief, we find new growth and new strength in our own lives.

The third bit of "encouraging news" is that there is something valuable you can take away from here today --the Memories that have been shared here today-- the memories you have shared with friends these past few days, the memories of your unique relationship with \_\_\_\_\_. Memories that will keep **him/her** alive in your heart and mind---You can recall these memories; re-live experiences over and over in the privacy of your mind any time you desire to do so. No one can take these memories away from you. Although this service will close in a few minutes, your relationship with \_\_\_\_\_ need not end here---as you recall the memories **he/she** will live on in your minds and hearts....

These memories can help you to heal. I quote **Katie Brown McGowin** at just about every funeral I do: "**Little by little, step by step, I learned I didn't need to hold on to the death to remember the life. What a joyous discovery.**" I believe if there was one thought \_\_\_\_\_ would have me leave with you it's this: **Don't hold**

**on to my death, remember my life, and I'll be waiting for you just inside the gate.**

In bringing this service to a close, we are symbolically acknowledging the close of \_\_\_\_\_'s life here on this earth--but not the close of \_\_\_\_\_'s life, but only the beginning-----

### **A Poem or song may be added here**

Let us pray.

Holy Father, as the solemn tones that betoken the dissolution of this earthly tabernacle have once again alarmed our stations and the soul of our departed **brother/sister**, \_\_\_\_\_, is on wings of angels, in that distant shore of eternal bliss---where You, Eternal Father, have handed **him/her** that priceless gift of eternal life--- We, O God, are made aware anew today that life is short and time is fleeting. Help us to hold fast to YOUR unchanging hand, to make adjustments in our own lives that will assure us perfect passage into Your eternal Presence, and help us to use the precious memories we have of our own unique relationships with \_\_\_\_\_ to heal our hurts.

And now we pray, dear Lord, that you will keep this family in the hollow of your loving hands--- In tender love and compassion, embrace them; keep them close to your Great heart. Be their refuge and strength, an ever present help in their grief. Show them again the love of Christ that surpasses all human understanding; sustain them in their loss and their loneliness in the days ahead; give them peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Possible Program that could be printed)

## MEMORIAL SERVICE

For  
Firefighter John Q. Doe

Posting of Honor Guard  
Posting of Colors

Prayer & Opening Remarks-----Chaplain  
Senior Department Chaplain

Sharing of Memories----- Friends

Reading on Behalf of

Song:

Remarks on Behalf of Employer:

Remarks from Fire Chief: Chief  
Chief, \_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department

Message----- Chaplain

Poem: (if appropriate or requested by family)

Song: (if desired or requested by family)

Closing Prayer

## Processional and Reception Instructions

(Give some basic directions about the processional to the cemetery Pointing out to the public that the fire engines and other fire department vehicles will follow the vehicles carrying family members, then general public falls in after fire apparatus).

Thanks to all who have extended such love and kindness to the family during these difficult times. Thanks to all who have visited, prayed, sent cards, brought food and in so many other ways been angels of love and support to the family - the men and women of the (name of your department) Fire Department, (other employer and fellow employees), to our customers, to those of the church who prepared the meal for the reception, and many, many friends. We can't seem to find adequate words to fully express to all of you our most heart-felt thanks.

The family requests that Memorial Contributions be made to ( example: the Water Response Team and Cadet Program at \_\_\_\_\_ Fire Department, or to the CaringBridge Nonprofit Organization, etc.

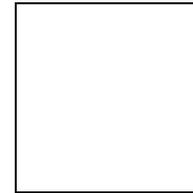
Thanks again for all your love and support.

- names of family members

Memorial Service

Name of Firefighter

**JULY 13, 1951 - NOVEMBER 28, 2003**



**Fire Department Logo  
Or Patch here**

**Name of CHURCH  
STREET  
Town, State**

**Date of Service**

**1100 HOURS**

