

# HOW TO STRUCTURE A MEANINGFUL EULOGY

## **Begin with an Introduction**

Start by introducing yourself and explaining your relationship to the individual. This helps the audience understand your perspective and connection.

## **Share Personal Stories**

Meaningful anecdotes often resonate more than formal summaries. Choose stories that reflect the person's character, values, humor, faith, service, or kindness.

## **Highlight Core Qualities**

Focus on defining traits and lasting impact. What did this person stand for? How did they influence family, friends, or community?

## **Keep the Length Appropriate**

Most eulogies are between five and ten minutes in length. Aim for clarity and sincerity rather than exhaustive detail.

## **Close with Reflection or Gratitude**

Conclude with a thoughtful reflection, expression of gratitude, or message of comfort. A steady, composed closing helps bring emotional balance to the service.

# EXAMPLE EULOGY (Fictional Demonstration)

This eulogy is fictional and provided solely as a demonstration example. Any resemblance to real persons, living or deceased, is purely coincidental.

## ALEXANDER J. HARTWELL

My name is Daniel Hartwell, and I had the privilege of calling Alexander J. Hartwell my father. For those who may not know me, I am one of the many people whose life was shaped by his quiet strength and steady guidance.

My father was not a man of grand speeches, but he lived with conviction. He believed in showing up, working hard, and keeping his word. Whether it was serving his country in his early years or mentoring neighbors long after retirement, he approached every responsibility with dignity.

He found joy in simple things — restoring an old tool, tending a garden, sharing a story at the dinner table. He taught us that character is built in small, consistent actions. Patience. Loyalty. Kindness without announcement.

What stands out most to me is the way he listened. He listened without interruption. He listened without judgment. And when he spoke, his words were thoughtful and measured. That steadiness gave our family confidence and comfort.

Today, we remember not just the milestones of his life, but the everyday presence that made our lives richer. We carry forward his example — not in perfection, but in intention.

Thank you for being here to honor him. May we each leave today committed to living with the same integrity and quiet generosity that defined Alexander J. Hartwell.