

"PRECIOUS IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD IS THE DEATH OF HIS SAINTS"



Psalm 166:15



C.W. MEMORIAL

"REST IN PEACE DEAR ONE!"



CAROL WEILER

ACTIVITY: Monthly Memorial Service

Supplies Needed:

- *Minister (Hospice will usually send Chaplin to do short service)
- *Family members invited of those that have passed
- *Memorabilia of those that have passed
- *Individual to lead discussion about each resident that has passed
- *Length of service usually one hour
- *Recorded music (Sing along with favorite old hymns) you can download these from www.devotionalembbers.com found in hymnal on home page if desired

Description:

Carol Weiler felt so strongly about honoring her fellow residents who had passed away that she brought the issue in front of the residents' council; a meeting where all people living in the facility are invited to attend with the goal of airing to the administrator their concerns or recommendations.

Since the majority of people living in residential care facilities are in the winter season of life, it is very common for some to pass away on a monthly basis. Thus, prior to establishing a memorial service, the usual happening was for individuals to notice a fellow resident's absence at mealtime; the first indication that something was amiss; resulting in a mission conducted by a few to inquire about the situation. Acting from a compassionate stance, the policy that had been established was for staff members to keep the situation quiet so residents would not be upset.

However, Carol expressed the opposite point of view by stating, "When they close the hallway doors to the wings it is due to the fact that a resident has died and they are hiding it from our vision. OUT OF SIGHT? OUT OF MIND? I THINK NOT! They forget that we are adults and fully realize that death is a natural part of the process of living; especially in a health care facility. I am going to let my feelings be known at the next residents' council meeting."

Therefore, staying true to her words, that is exactly what took place! Thus, the end result was the birth of the C.W. Memorial Service that is held once a month for residents desiring to attend. Thus, after being present at the very first service, many of them expressed great satisfaction in getting a chance to remember those who had been cherished residents of their tightly bound community because it offered dignity for the departed and promoted closure for those remaining behind. Having attended some of these services, the writer would have to say that she is in total agreement with their sentiments.

Thus, it is important for this memorial to not be conducted like a funeral, but as a time when memories are shared with one another regarding that individual; meaning comments that bring tears as well as hearty laughter. Both family and friends to those whose lives are being celebrated are always invited to attend this special service, as well. Additionally, sometimes photographs are available for people to enjoy together. (In one case, a power point created by family members was shown to the attendees.)

Please find below a poem you may desire to use on the programs for the memorial service. Simply print it on a page of the program and use as a closing. If you are desirous of additional poems for your services, please go to www.devotionalembbers.com and open the collection called "JESUS IS THE HEART OF IT". Download free.



HIGHER GROUND

During the autumn of our lives, when the leaves of time begin to fall
Our tired eyes sweep the wide horizon, anticipating the Shepherd's call
As dark forbidding ominous clouds, sweep over the distant hill
The cold wind of the approaching storm, harshly announces the winter chill.

But no matter the raging tempest, faced by His sheep along the way
The Shepherd pours His life into theirs, and beside them He will stay
And if a loved one first departs, leaving those who care behind
The Shepherd will gently still remain, offering strength for all to find.

Yeah though I walk through death's dark valley, life for me will never stop
For the Lord promises this as the beginning, with higher ground waiting on top
He then prepares a table before me and sweetly anoints my head with oil
And with His goodness and mercy overflowing, nothing will make me ever recoil.

All through this life Christ attends to me, with tender care and concern
He is my Shepherd, to whom I belong, and to Him I will humbly return
That I shall dwell in His presence forever, gives cause for my cup to overflow
And one day, soon, I'll leave for higher ground, this I believe and know.