In Memoriam

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ABOUT THIS SECTION
In Memoriam started in July 2019 and publishes six times a year. The section honors the memories of the community members we’ve lost during the prior two-month period. This edition includes those whose obituary appeared between May 4 and June 28.
You know you want to be cremated…

But do they?

Speak to a Professional Preplanning Counselor Today.

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IN MEMORIAM

JULY 2020

Nelson - Smigaj

Ardell V. Nelson
HELENA
Died June 10, 2020

Robert Earl Olson
July 24, 1956 - March 18, 2020

Francis Eugene Quinn
HELENA
Sept. 14, 1931 - June 23, 2020

Charles “Charlie”
Phillip Rougle
ALBANY
Died May 17, 2020

Betty “Smading” Scow
HELENA
March 26, 1928 - April 28, 2020

Dorothy June Sickich
HELENA
Jan. 6, 1938 - May 7, 2020

Dan Lee Newman
ELLISTON
May 16, 1937 - May 14, 2020

Elvis Aron Presley
Died March 28, 2020

Fred Radke
HELENA
March 25, 1940 - May 23, 2020

Robert Louis Rushford
April 24, 1937 - 2020

Rufus Sherrill

Gary Smigaj
HELENA
Died May 27, 2020

Earl Olson
HELENA
Aug. 28, 1938 - May 2, 2020

Robert “Bob” C. Pryor
HELENA
Jan. 27, 1932 - April 17, 2020

Elizabeth “Betty” Louise
Mattice Raymond
Jan. 4, 1933 - Feb. 11, 2020

Beverly M. Rhodes
HELENA
Jan. 10, 1934 - June 19, 2020

Keith “Oly” Martin Olson

Dennis K. “Denny” Quinn
WEST LINN, OR
April 26, 1939 - May 13, 2020

Karen A. “Kan” Stiles
HELENA

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There are many occurrences that require an update to estate-planning documents. A will is your ironclad way to disperse your assets to loved ones as you wish. Here are a few of the top reasons you may need to update this important document.

**Changes in financial situation**

There may come a time where you decide to increase or decrease the inheritance you are leaving behind for loved ones. For instance, if you receive a large sum of money, it’s possible to alter your will to add a new beneficiary or make an increase towards those currently on your list. On the other hand, if you experience financial misfortune, it’s necessary to adjust the document to pay out less and ensure your estate’s obligations can still be met.

**Changes in tax laws**

It can be hard to stay up to date on constantly changing tax laws, but it’s necessary to keep your final document in good legal standing. Especially if your will takes actions to address estate tax issues, it’s a good idea to receive periodic reviews by a professional attorney.

**Ask for advice**

Don’t be afraid to ask your legal expert for advice on other moments that may benefit your last will and testament. Remember, this document is incredibly important to keep accurate as it articulates your vision and solidifies your legacy.
How to choose cremation services

Making plans for your funeral is a tough subject. Most people would rather skip the subject or opt to have others plan their funerals. But the reality is procrastination or avoidance does not change reality.

It’s also worth planning ahead because funeral costs can be a major burden on the deceased’s family. Cremation services are becoming more popular these days because of high funeral costs. They can be a cost-effective alternative to traditional burials.

It is always best to take care of details in advance. Making decisions in advance about cremation services can take the burden off loved ones during a painful time. Otherwise, they will need to make tough choices while stressed and grieving.

With cremation, the family doesn’t have to purchase an expensive casket. Loved ones may spend more money than they can afford in an effort to respect the memory of the deceased.

But a cremation service is an affordable way to respectfully memorialize a friend or family member. The service can be a peaceful time to grieve and remember.

A funeral home may have a partnership or connection with a cremation center. They may have additional services, such as grief counseling or assistance with necessary paperwork.

After the cremation, you will receive an urn. You can choose to bury the urn, keep it in your home or place it in a memorial building.

When searching for a cremation center, check with your family or friends for referrals. If you cannot get an appropriate referral, you might be able to join a cremation society. For a small fee, you will receive up-to-date information about your options and the process. Membership may also help you obtain a lower cost on cremation services. These societies will provide assistance with many details connected to the service and disposition of remains.

The Internet Cremation Society and the Cremation Society of North America are sources of information about cremation societies.

Once you have narrowed your choices, consider how you feel about the staff of the cremation center. You should feel comfortable asking questions. The employees should be knowledgeable, competent and pleasant. They should give you all of the details about price breakdowns, and their process of making ashes for the urn.

By doing a little research and choosing wisely, you can make the process a little easier for loved ones during a difficult time.
Become an organ donor

When you make a commitment to donate healthy organs or tissue at the time of your death, you positively impact the lives of others. When planning your legacy, it’s easy to have your loved ones at the forefront of your mind, but a simple registration could influence the life of a stranger.

According to the United States Department of Health & Human Services, there are two ways to sign up to be an organ donor. From the comfort of your home, visit their website and fill out a simple form. If you would rather complete the process with a representative, the experts at the local Department of Motor Vehicles can help.

Statistics
There are thousands of Americans in need of healthy organs or tissue. Here are some sobering statistics from the United Network of Organ Sharing, to show you the importance of registering:

- 113,864 people are on a waiting list for a lifesaving organ transplant.
- One organ donor can save eight lives.
- A person is added to the national transplant waiting list every ten minutes.
- In 2018, there were 33,432 transplants performed.

How you can help
Adults who are legal citizens in the United States are eligible to donate organs at the time of death, and, in some cases, during their lifetime. Of course, certain diseases may inhibit your from becoming a donor; be honest about your health conditions during registration.

Some things that may prevent someone from applying are an HIV infection, cancer or a systemic infection. Keep in mind that organs that aren’t affected from these diseases may qualify, so visit a representative to discuss your options.

Talking with family
Make sure to discuss your wishes with your family. Conversations regarding death are never easy. You should approach the subject with sensitivity by discussing the benefits that registration offers to others.

How to choose a final resting place

No one likes to think about it—but we all need to plan for our eventual demise.

And one of the most compassionate things you can do for your loved ones is making sure you’ve made a plan for a final resting place.

Whether you’re pre-planning for yourself or helping a family member with choices, these end-of-life decisions will have a lasting impact.

Here are some things to consider when choosing a final resting place.

Cemetery
Choosing a resting place is similar to buying real estate. Location will play a large part in choosing a cemetery plot or mausoleum.

Your final resting place should have special meaning for you and your loved ones. Ideally, it should be neat, clean and have long-term arrangements for taking care of the grounds. A convenient location is preferable, so loved ones can pay their respects easily and conveniently.

Much of this decision will be based on personal preference. It might be a small, quiet country location or a plot in the middle of a bustling city. There are plenty of options available, depending on your wishes.

The property manager should have a stellar reputation and a lengthy track record of being professional. It is important that they make you feel comfortable and at peace with your decisions.

Look for a cemetery that will be run in perpetuity. It should have stable management now and detailed plans for ongoing maintenance through decades to come. Do not be afraid to ask questions about the company’s history and plans for the future.

Headstones
Deciding on the right headstone is another way to leave a legacy.

The monument or headstone can say a lot about the deceased’s life. You can choose a simple, straightforward stone or an elaborate stone with a custom design. You can also leave a message for descendants. This headstone will be around for a very long time, and it can inform people about your life.

So you might want something more unique. Monuments can also reflect the personality and interests of the person they are honoring.

Many companies offer a variety of designs and layouts for people who want a special headstone. They have symbols and messages that can honor religious beliefs, clubs, honors or careers. These elements will add personality to your headstone.

These companies are happy to cater to your request. They might also make recommendations.

A final resting place will honor a legacy for many years to come. The decisions you make will leave a meaningful impression, so take the time to choose wisely.

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