

Current Funeral Trends

Some of the latest funeral trends offer creative options to traditional funeral and memorial services that allow us to uniquely honor and celebrate a life well lived.

- *Funeral Industry Trends*

Today, more people are interested in End-of-Life celebrations that reflects their unique personality, hobbies, and interests. People recognize that this milestone event doesn't have to be somber; instead it can be a meaningful celebration of life that can include music, food, drink and more. Funeral homes now provide event planning services and can act as a funeral celebrant to manage all the elements and details of an End-of-Life event.

Another growing trend is advance funeral planning, where people plan their End-of-Life celebration. For some, it provides a sense of control over a final act. For others, it's a way to bring family and friends together for a unique final celebration.

- *Internet Trends*

Today, family and friends can send notifications about a loved one's death and even attend a funeral service online. They can access electronic guest books to learn about funeral services and express digital condolences from anywhere in the world. Memorial websites enable family and friends to post pictures, videos, and share personal stories about their deceased loved one.

- *Environmental Trends*

One environmentally friendly option to the traditional in-ground burial process includes, a "natural burial," where a loved one's body is wrapped in a shroud or placed in a biodegradable casket to decompose naturally. Click: <http://www.beatree.com/> or <http://www.greenburialcouncil.org> for more information.

Another option from Eternal Reefs, transforms a deceased loved one's remains into a concrete structure that is placed under the sea to help restore damaged coral reefs. Click: <http://www.eternalreefs.com/> for more information.

- *Technology Trends*

A company called CataCombo offers a casket with built-in speakers and a highly technical sound system, including programmable playlists. Go to: <http://catacombosoundsystem.com/> for more information.

Several companies including Legacy Headstones and Quiring Monuments place a detailed memorial of the deceased onto a computer chip, and then set it into a headstone, which can be accessed from anywhere with a smart phone. Go to: www.legacyheadstones.com or www.monuments.com/living-headstones for more information.

- *Eternal Preservation Trends*

Increasingly requested today is Cryonics, where a loved one's body is frozen to be reanimated later when technology discovers a way to do so.

Another nontraditional preservation method is called, "plastination," which is the process of preserving human bodies to reveal inner anatomical structures. Medical schools and anatomy labs use plastination to preserve organ specimens for education.