

Info Sources for Deceased Classmates from Bill Bahr, 3/10/26

Next of Kin

Obituaries

Register

<https://defender.west-point.org/service/taps.mhtml?s=d&q=usma1969>

as well as remembrances there they may have left for others.

Howitzer

Legacy Book

Vital Statistics Form from AOG & Cullum File entries

Email to Class asking for input

Articles, books, interviews (text, video), awards, newspaper clippings, appropriate

photograph (look for web images)

Minimum 650 words; maximum 900 words (If a longer, indented poem is included, the maximum is 800. You do not need to include a header with name, date of birth, and date of death, and it does not count against your word count.)

- **First Orders**
- **Announcements**
- **Wedding**
- **Children**
- **Degrees Obtained**
- **Job Promotion, Hire, or Achievement**
- **Change of Station**
- **Change in Rank Professional Photos**
- **Newspaper or Magazine Clippings**

- **Self-Written Biography**
 - **Press Releases**
 - **Awards Received**
 - **Covers of Published Books**
 - **Resume**
 - **Vital Stats Sheet (accessed at <https://www.westpointaog.org/services/cullumfile>)**
 - **Genealogical information about you and other family members who attended the Academy**
- Ancestry.com**
- Find A Grave <https://www.findagrave.com/>**

Copilot

Where would one look for information to write a eulogy?

Short answer: You'd typically look in **three places:** (1) **your own memories and conversations** with people who knew the deceased, (2) **personal artifacts** like letters, photos, and social media posts, and (3) **public or family records** such as obituaries or biographies. These sources help you gather stories, traits, and moments that form the heart of a meaningful eulogy.

Below is a structured, practical guide based on what reliable sources recommend about writing a eulogy.

Where to Look for Information

Drawing from several expert guides on eulogy writing, here are the most useful places to gather material:

1. Your Own Memories & Experiences

- Think about **shared moments**, inside jokes, routines, or meaningful conversations.

- Identify **core traits**: kindness, humor, resilience, and generosity.
- Consider **turning points** in their life that you witnessed.

2. Family & Friends

- Ask close relatives for stories you may not know.
- Reach out to coworkers, neighbors, or long-time friends
- These conversations often reveal **specific, honest, and personal anecdotes**, which experts say make the strongest eulogies.

3. Personal Artifacts

- **Photos**, scrapbooks, letters, journals, or saved voicemails.
- **Social media posts** that capture their voice or values.
- **Hobbies or collections** that reflect their passions.

4. Life Records & Public Information

- Obituaries, resumes, awards, or community involvement records.
- These help confirm dates, milestones, and accomplishments.

5. Guides & Templates

Professional guides recommend gathering information before writing. They suggest:

- Creating an outline
- Listing stories
- Highlighting the person's impact

What Information to Collect

Here's a checklist to help you gather the right material:

Personal Background

- Birthplace, education, career, major life milestones.

Personality & Values

- What they cared about most.
- How they treated others.

- What made them unique.

Stories & Anecdotes

- Funny or touching moments.
- Times they helped someone.
- Moments that show their character.

Impact on Others

- How they shaped family, friends, or community.
- Lessons they taught.

Closing Thoughts

- A message of gratitude.
- A meaningful quote, saying, or belief they held.

Tips from Eulogy Experts

- **Be specific**, not generic—real stories resonate most.
- **Be honest**, acknowledging the full person.
- **Keep it concise**—many guides recommend 3–5 minutes (about 500–750 words).

✓ Step-by-Step: How to Use the Information You Gather

1. **Collect stories** from the sources above.
2. **Choose 2–4 themes** (e.g., generosity, humor, resilience).
3. **Select stories** that illustrate those themes.
4. **Write an outline:** intro → stories → impact → closing.
5. **Draft the eulogy** using simple, heartfelt language.
6. **Read it aloud** to check flow and timing.

If you'd like, I can help you **organize your notes**, **draft the eulogy**, or **shape the stories** into a meaningful structure.