A SMALL MEMORIAL AT HOME

In loving memory of

_____

Years _____

PLACE A PHOTO HERE

Date _____ Place _____

porchlightmemorial.com · free to print

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Five minutes of setup

- [ ] **Pick a time and keep it.** An evening after dinner works for most households. Tell everyone the time so it feels like an appointment.
- [ ] **Pick a spot that was theirs.** The corner where their bed sat, the back step, the window they watched from. A slow walk on their favorite path works too.
- [ ] **Set a small table.** A photo, their collar or tag, a favorite toy, and a candle. If you'd rather not have an open flame, a lamp works just as well.
- [ ] **Add a bowl and some paper.** Anyone who can't speak can write a line instead and drop it in. The memory cards at the back of this booklet are made for this.
- [ ] **Silence the phones.** Fifteen minutes is short. Let it be uninterrupted.

ORDER OF SERVICE

About fifteen minutes

1	Light the candle	1 min
2	Say why you're here	1 min
3	One memory each	5–7 min
4	A few lines to read	2 min
5	One quiet minute	1 min
6	Close with one small act	2 min

Swap in your pet's name wherever you see a blank. Change any line that doesn't sound like you.

THE SERVICE

Words you can read aloud

1 Light the candle 1 minute

ONE PERSON LIGHTS IT AND SAYS

"We're lighting this for _____. For as long as it burns, we're here for them."

2 Say why you're here 1 minute

READ

"_____ was part of this family for _____ years. We miss them, and we didn't want this week to go by without saying so together."

3 One memory each 5 to 7 minutes

Go around once. If someone freezes, offer one of these:

- The day they came home.
- The most stubborn thing they ever did.
- A sound you miss: the tags, the sigh, the tail on the floor.
- Where they always waited for you.

Funny stories are welcome. Laughing about the way they barked at the vacuum is part of remembering them.

4 A few lines to read 2 minutes

Read a poem, a prayer, or a short letter you wrote to them. If you'd like something ready, this one was written by Porchlight and is free to use:

You kept the hours of this house.
You knew our steps before the door.
We will keep your hours now,
a light, a name, and nothing more
than all the love you gave us first.

Porchlight

More poems and prayers, including ones for children, are in our free *Prayers & Readings* sheet at porchlightmemorial.com.

5 One quiet minute 1 minute

No one has to say anything. Hold the collar, look at the photo, or close your eyes.

6 Close with one small act 2 minutes

- Plant a bulb or a small plant where they liked to lie.
- Hang their tag on a window latch or a hook by the door.
- Give their favorite treat to another pet in the house.

BLOW OUT THE CANDLE AND SAY

"Goodnight, _____. We'll light this again."

MAKING IT YOURS

For every kind of family

If children are there

Kids often do better with a job. One can hold the photo, one can light the candle with help, and one can read a single line. Suggest it gently and follow their lead. If a child would rather draw than speak, the drawing can go in the bowl.

If family lives far away

- Pick a time that works across time zones and send a calendar invite.
- Ask everyone to have a candle or lamp and one photo ready.
- Prop the phone so the table is in view, and share memories in turn.
- Light your candles together on a count of three.

If you'd rather do it alone

A memorial for one is still a memorial. Light the candle, say their name, and read the lines in this booklet to yourself or out loud. If speaking feels like too much, write one memory on a card instead.

After the service

Leave the table up for a few days if it comforts you, or put everything away that night. There's no right way to do it. Some people keep the same time each week: light the same candle, say their name, and tell them one thing from the week.

If the days after feel heavier instead of lighter, that's common too. Free pet loss hotlines and support groups are listed at porchlightmemorial.com.

MEMORY CARDS

Cut, write, and place in the bowl

A memory of _____

From _____

A memory of _____

From _____

A memory of _____

From _____

A memory of _____

From _____

✂ Cut along the dashed lines