

Keep the Circle Strong

The family should not have to carry the name alone.

A grieving family watches, quietly, to see if anyone still carries the name. The circle holds when departments, chaplains, neighbors, and community members build habits of remembrance — not as ceremony, but as ordinary decency repeated over time.

WHAT TO DO

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| ☐ Assign one person to maintain ongoing contact with the family. | ☐ Acknowledge the anniversary every year — call, card, or presence. |
| ☐ Include the fallen in events without the family having to ask. | ☐ Track children's milestones and reach out at each one. |
| ☐ Review the circle every six months: who is still connected? | ☐ Build remembrance into department culture — routine, not ceremony. |

DO THIS WEEK

Ask right now: who in this department or community still has regular contact with this family? If no one, fix that today.

ASK YOURSELF

If you asked this family today whether they feel remembered, what do you think they would say?

“The circle holds when people decide to keep showing up — long after the ceremony, long after it is easy.”