

Best in Personalization



► **First Place: Olinger Highland Mortuary & Cemetery, Thornton, Colorado**

#### WHAT THE JUDGES SAID

- Love the martini glass urn.
- Wonderful program—very personal with iconic cover art.
- Very nice use of personal items.
- Truly celebrated his life.
- Very unique and personal.
- Good job—it's hard to create a non-traditional service for a non-traditional deceased.
- Sensitive, colorful, fun.
- Great attention to detail.
- Much work went into this service.

#### KIP WINNER SPOTLIGHT

Olinger staff members who worked with the family on the arrangements: **Charles Myers**, general manager, Olinger Highland Mortuary and Cemetery, and **Eric Wolverton**, president, Olinger Chapel Hill Mortuary and Cemetery. Funeral directors who worked the service: **Jarred Swedlund**, location manager, Olinger Crown Hill Mortuary and Cemetery; **Michael Long**, general manager, Olinger Hampden Mortuary and Cemetery; **Kevin Wolfe**, general manager, Olinger Crown Hill Mortuary and Cemetery; **Christopher Conroy**, director of corporate alliances; and **Rick Miller**, president, Olinger Mortuaries and Cemeteries. Officiant was **Stacie Schubert, M.Div.**, director of public relations and community outreach. Pictured, from left: Wolverton, Swedlund, Wolfe, Schubert, Myers, Miller and Long.

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## KIP AWARDS: MOST PERSONALIZED SERVICE OR MEMORIAL

How can you not throw one last party for someone known as “the life of the party”?

Olinger Highland's staff worked with the family to plan a highly personalized cremation

memorial service led by a celebrant at a country club.

# One last party to tell his story

**P**hantom of the Opera? Kid Rock? Motley Crüe? Hundreds of floral arrangements? Alcohol? Cigars? To some it was an unorthodox memorial service, but to those who knew and loved David Byerly, well there was no other way to honor and celebrate his life and memory.

Byerly, longtime owner and president of Lehrer's Flowers, one of the nation's largest retail floral chains, died unexpectedly and tragically on July 27, 2008. He was only 58 and was survived by his only child, Kevin Byerly, his daughter-in-law Shannon and their two children, Jack and Ava.

Many described Byerly as the “life of the party,” a caring man who knew no strangers. He would give you the shirt off his back, the couch in his living room and the last dollar in his wallet if you needed it.

He loved to golf and ski. Each year, after the first snowfall, he alternated his time between his loft in downtown Denver and his mountain sanctuary in Vail. He attended more Motley Crüe concerts than the band members themselves! Pictures of him backstage and with the band adorned his walls. But more than all that, he loved



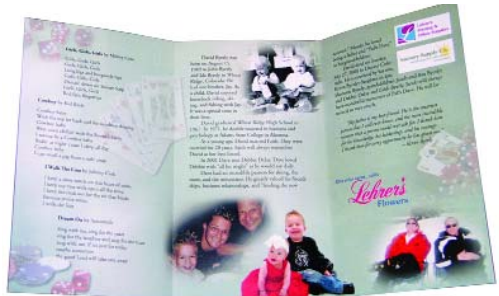
Some of the memorabilia set up for David Byerly's memorial service.

his two grandchildren, Ava and Jack.

His family chose to honor him with a unique service that not only celebrated the things he loved most in life but also the life lessons he left behind. The memorial



Left and below, the memorial folder, which paid tribute to Byerly's family, personal interests and business, his flower shop. It included a brief bio, a few song lyrics and the order of service (opening music: "Phantom of the Opera").



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Left, the urn, encircled by flowers, was a cigar humidor, decorated with a hand-painted martini glass.

Below, more floral arrangements, some of which incorporated skis; skiing and golf memorabilia; and enlarged photos of Byerly and his family.



service was arranged by Olinger and held at a local country club, one where Byerly loved to play golf. Hundreds of friends, co-workers and family members gathered before the service with a cocktail in hand to walk around the grand ballroom.

Huge floral displays with skis, guitars, golf and Bronco paraphernalia lined the outer circle of the room. Larger-than-life pictures told the story of his life. The music that filled the air wasn't "Amazing Grace" or "How Great Thou Art," but rather the sounds of rockers and rappers and even a country favorite.

And at the center of it all was the beautiful wood humidor decorated with a hand-painted martini glass which now served as an urn, Byerly's final resting place.

Because Byerly wasn't a religious man but found God in the world around us, a celebrant was chosen who could help weave together the personal with the spiritual.

A video was shared with pictures from childhood to adulthood and between each of



the unconventional songs, friends and family members took the podium to share their stories, their memories of Byerly. The room roared with laughter and filled with tears. And through it all, Byerly's presence was felt and known by all who loved him. □