



## Memorial, Tribute & Biography Videos

March/April 2008

Our newsletter this month is on Memorial, Tribute and Biography Videos. Most people are familiar with memorial videos at funeral and memorial services. Yes, we *do* create this type of montage. You might think that is kind of morbid or depressing, but we don't look at it like that. We focus on the positive, not the negative. It's more like a celebration of life, the life this person had, their accomplishments and the person they became. This is the story we create that keeps their memory strong in the ones of those who grew to love them.

## Memorial Videos

Memorial video's can help us reflect on the person, who they were and what they meant to



us, but they can do much more. When someone departs, it leaves a tremendous void in our life, especially so if they are a close friend or relative. Then on top of that, life goes on, and with it, changes. There comes a fear you will forget that person, or that future generations will not be able to get to know that person like you did. What this type of modern technology allows you to do is keep the memory alive with pictures, video and other memorabilia, which you can use to create into a story that unfolds to all about who this person was. This helps the memory of this person stay alive to future generations. It also helps fill the void of missing them-by seeing them appear on your TV screen and reliving their joys, trumps, likes and dislikes. I had one widow say it was like having a visit with her husband. It keeps their memory alive forever.

One other type of memorial video that you might consider doing is for a beloved pet.



When a pet dies your heart feels the loss, just like losing a good friend. Having a memorial pet video made not only gives you a lasting memory of your pet; it gives you closure to the loss.

Here is a sample of a memorial video we did:

[http://www.metacafe.com/watch/599966/sample\\_memorial\\_video/](http://www.metacafe.com/watch/599966/sample_memorial_video/)

For memorial or funeral service videos that need a quick turn around-to show at the service, we can have packages 1 to 3 done in 24 to 48 hours. You can check out our pricing at:

<http://www.tearsofjoyvideo.com/pricing.html>

If you're not doing this for a memorial service, you could create it later for friends and family. Maybe you could get a few close friends together on the year anniversary of the death, to remember them, or you could send a video out a few months or years later after the funeral to close friends and family who miss this person like you do. What a wonderful gift! Some of our clients have felt putting one of these together after the death as a healing, helping them deal with the loss. If you wait to create one of these till later, you can have more time to think about how you would like to put a video together that really tells a story- maybe package 4 to 8 and create titles or even narration that tells the story. It's great if you can get video clips of the person or short quotes, either on video or to add as titles, from people who have fond memories or funny stories. I go into detail in my blog on how to create one of these types of videos: <http://www.merchantcircle.com/blogs/Tears.Of.Joy.Video.760-635-2817/2007/5/CREATING-A-MEMORIAL-OR-TRIBUTE-VIDEO/21121>



The other way you can create one of these types of videos is living tributes- either for a special occasion like a graduation, a retirement party, an anniversary or any other special milestone in the person's life. This is a great addition to any party, a highlight your guest will rave about. This type of video can be even more enjoyable for you, because you get to celebrate the life of a person while they are still here to celebrate it with you. It will be the most precious gift that you can give to the person your are creating the tribute for, Watch a sample graduation video:



<http://www.tearsofjoyvideo.com/clients/sample/katelyn.wmv>

## Biography

Tears of Joy Video was started with a Biography.

Read our blog about this: <http://www.merchantcircle.com/blogs/Tears.Of.Joy.Video.760-635-2817/2007/4/IT-ALL-STARTED-WITH-AN-OLD-MANS-WISH/19640>

The biography video can be done for a person, but usually is done by the person, telling his or her own story. Do you have a great story, maybe an inspiring one? Have interesting things happened in your life? Or maybe you have an ordinary life, but you have special people in your life, your kids, your grandkids, who think you are extraordinary, and you want to leave a piece of yourself behind for them. This is a great way to do this. Tell your story on video with your pictures, video, movies, slides and interviews. If you hire Tears of Joy Video on, we can help you create questions to ask if you want to create an interview on video (we give examples below on how to do this). We can also recommend a professional videographer is you don't have access to a video camera. Give a look at our website as to how you may organize your pictures for one of these videos:

<http://www.tearsofjoyvideo.com/planning.html>

You can also create a biography video for a family member that has past. If a child, marriage mate or close friend can help tell the story, it's never too late to create the story of someone who you loved and admired. As our byline says: Everyone has a story...what's yours?

We hope you enjoy the rest of our newsletter, dealing with memorial, tribute and biography videos. Read on to see what the other two, Juli & Julie, have say about this subject. Also included is the photography tip, and two businesses contribution from Merchant-Circle. Enjoy!  
By Cathie Dodd



## REMEMBERING

Recently, I received a phone call from a woman who asked me to help her put together a video montage for her father, who had been admitted into hospice care in the final stage of his cancer ordeal. As she spoke to me, the tears ran down my face, too – I knew the pain she was going through and how important it was to cling to the good days as the current days were almost too much to bear.

We worked together to create a phenomenal tribute to a very dignified man. He got to live to see the video with his grown children and grandchildren. A week later, he passed away and his family replayed the video as a tribute to him at his memorial service.



I feel grateful when I am honored to work with people on projects like these. Turning a heartbreaking life reality into a few moments of joy, tenderness and diversion are a privilege. I have lived this kind of loss with both of my parents and making the videos for them was a stepping stone to healing the loss their absence would most certainly bring. I remember feeling a sense of anxiety that I might forget the memories and only remember the horrifying and dark days. Over and over again, when I would feel this way, I would take out the video we had made, and the good days would play and yes, I could hear the voices of the ones I loved and my heart would settle down.

The “Tears of Joy” ethic demands that we view each project we create as a custom, one of a kind, creation. We do not use “cookie cutter” music, transitions or formats ... we listen to our clients tell us about the person we are honoring and then we set to work on a tribute that fits that memory. The process of selecting the pictures and video clips to use in the video is therapeutic for the family. To take those photographic memories and make them come to life with stirring music that can help a family deal with a difficult loss is a privilege. To help them remember with joy, a blessing for all of us.



-- Julie Wilkerson

***Remember, I will still be here  
As long as you hold me  
your memory***

(lyrics from Josh Groban's "Remember")

*In  
My thoughts*



I was asked a few weeks ago to create a video tribute for the father of 8 children. He had passed away back in January, his daughter wanted to create a video as a “thank you” for her family and friends who had assisted her father in the final days of his life and also as a tribute to a wonderful man. My instructions were clear, don’t make it sad, make it happy and uplifting, to celebrate a life. Yes they had experience a great loss, but they wanted to remember the good times too. The night came to show the video and the room was packed. People did cry... but I

think some of them were tears of joy, joy in the memories they had relived and maybe tears of sadness, for the father and friend they had lost. Either way, they family loved it. They told me later they watched it 4 more times that night, and they expressed how much they all loved it. - Juli Dodd

## Photography/Video Tip

### Tips for Video Taping an Interview

Three things you want to make sure you do in an interview are to hold the camera steady, have good quality sound and good quality light on the subject.

### Steady Camera

It would be best if you could put your camera on tripod. Line up the shot so the person is framed in the shot and facing you, so when you ask questions they can look straight in the camera.

If the camera is on tripod, you can center yourself right behind the camera so the person is still looking in the camera, but they can look at you to answer the questions. It makes the conversation more natural to have a face-to-face conversation. Remember to give about 5 seconds at the start of the interview before you start, so the editor can have a lead in. If you don't have a tripod, have someone help you out. Have them ask the questions while you film –so the person interviewed can still look at someone instead of a camera. Be sure to take breaks after every 5 or so minutes so the camera person can rest.



### Quality Sound

It would be best if you could buy an external microphone to make sure the sound comes across clearly. You can buy an inexpensive mike to add on to your camera here: [http://www.dak.com/reviews/2030story.cfm?Ref=G&PM=WM&type=GSrch&Srh=camcorder\\_mic](http://www.dak.com/reviews/2030story.cfm?Ref=G&PM=WM&type=GSrch&Srh=camcorder_mic)

A lapel microphone would probably be best, because you wouldn't have the problem of people holding the microphone wrong and creating the wrong type of sound. Check the sound before you start filming to make sure the microphone is working properly. If you can't get an external microphone, be sure to get close enough to get the person interviewed voice clearly. Have them talk a little louder than usual and be conscious of background noises, including your breathing. If an unexpected noise comes, pause and ask the question again.

### Lighting

Make sure there is no back light taking away from the subject you are interviewing and putting shadows on your subject. If you are interviewing in the day, you can get good quality light from placing the subject by a window, but make sure the window is to the side of the person and not behind them. If you are interviewing in a dark room, move some lamps in from other rooms and move them so you light up your subject. Sometimes it's best to remove the shades to give more light to the subject.

By Cathie Dodd- (former videographer) Tears of Joy Video

## Merchant Circle Businesses

### Creating Questions for Interviews

I used my connections at merchantcircle to get a response to the following question.

*If someone were writing your biography, what story about yourself is a Must to include?*

Here are some of their responses:

Lindy

[www.designbusinessengineering.com](http://www.designbusinessengineering.com)

My must add moment would be the day that I was at a conference in Hong Kong and really "Got" that I was the only one with the responsibility, and ability to choose what I want my life to be like.

*So Lindy, I guess the question for that answer is what was a pivotal point in your life?*

# Merchant Circle Businesses

## Creating Questions for Interviews (CONT.)

Cheri

[takecareofmywebsite.com](http://takecareofmywebsite.com)

My biggest joys and passions are my 7 kids, and 2 grandchildren. Beyond that is my love for helping others to succeed. That is an awesome moment for me and why I do what I do. I get to touch so very many lives each and every day in a way that then makes me glad to get up in the morning.

*So Cheri, I guess the question I would ask you for that answer is what is your biggest joys and passions in your life?*

Angel Bags

[www.PictureMyPurse.com](http://www.PictureMyPurse.com)

I would have to add to my biography, the following topics

Children's birth.

The loss of friends as you age.

The trails of friendship as you grow older, you can quickly grow apart.

*How did your children's births affect you? How important are friends to you? Who have been your closet friends through the years? What effect does the loss of friendship have on you?*

Cheryl

[www.Xactli.com](http://www.Xactli.com)

I guess I would want it to be about the relationship I had with my mother who died a few months ago at the age of 57. Although she thought she had nothing to give, she gave us life, unconditional love, friendship, morals, etc. We all turned out okay - she wasn't rich, but she did a wonderful job and she gave us all that she had to give. I'm happy that she was there with us (both times) for the birth of our children. We were stationed in Japan when I was pregnant with my daughter, but I traveled (horrible trip) from base to base to get to the states so my mother could be there when I gave birth. Weeks later, my daughter was born - I went into labor the day after my husband arrived (via regular flight) from Japan.

*How did your relationship with your mother help mold you into the person you are today?*

Joseph

[www.edexcelltutoring.com](http://www.edexcelltutoring.com)

I will answer this question by first asking the question that would accurately reflect my response to a "must include" story about myself...

*Where did you find your motivation to embrace the chance to create your own future?*

Success, in one form or another, seems to be the goal for many of us. Success means something different to everyone while the definition, from whom ever it may come, always contains similar variables. In a family of 12 there wasn't much time to think about the future, simply because if you don't focus on the "now" your going to get left behind! It was a fast paced world growing up in my house where you graciously took what you were given and humbly accepted what was lost.

Sharing my knowledge and experiences with others so that they might better find themselves is a goal we all can fulfill, but one a Teacher, and only a select few others, can make a profession. I have been living my dream, and only becoming happier with it as it continues to unfold, for the past four years now. I have recently incorporated an In-Home-Tutoring service into my quiver of tools to help me achieve my goals of success, because in "My" definition success will be living life with limited concern for the now while awaiting a certain happy future! Yes...I decided to become a Teacher! A thankless job to some, but to me an opportunity to be a "success!"

Cheryl

[www.prepaidlegal.com/hub/cheryl63](http://www.prepaidlegal.com/hub/cheryl63)

The pivotal moment for me was my daughter's death in a car accident in another state. Having worked for the police department for 11 years and even having my department involved in trying to find answers we got stonewalled by an agency that was involved in the incident in a minor way.

I realized that through no fault of our own we need to sometimes have the advice of a good lawyer but most people had no idea where to turn and couldn't afford the advice anyway. It opened my eyes in a way that they had not been opened before.

*What pivotal moment in your life changed everything, and started you into a new direction?*

Melinda

[www.tinytotboutique.com](http://www.tinytotboutique.com)

1. My parents-they have been a Great influence in my life from childhood to adult.

2. My children-they have been a blessing to me from the day they were born.

The fact that they are the only people in my life that I have ever felt that i could truly be myself with and no matter what they would still love me as much as i love them.

*How have your parents been an influence on your life?*

*What impact did having children, have on your life?*

*What is your definition of unconditional love?*

Jacqueline

[www.melmonexchange.com](http://www.melmonexchange.com)

My triumphs of making it as far as I have. The joys and the pains of life as well as my strength getting there.

*What would you say is your greatest triumphs in life?*

*What brings you the greatest joy in life?*

# BUCKLE UP

**I grew up in a day and age where wearing a seat belt was optional.** We piled into the backseat of a clunky station wagon and got on and off freeways without a care in the world. Today we know, “seat belts save lives”... For that time, we did what we know and today, well... we know better.



That kind of explains why I now work for Colonial Life. If you were to wind life to about 4 years ago or so, you would find that life was rolling along. I owned a business, had a nice home, some substantial savings in the bank, manageable bills and overhead, etc. Yet, I was unaware of some of the pitfalls and hardships a person could encounter in life when unprepared for the unexpected. I was, in effect, driving through life “without a seatbelt”....

A few years ago, my husband and I were on the way home from an engagement party and a car in front of us spun out of control. We braked to miss colliding with it, but as we were stopped, a moving van rammmed into us from behind. I heard the crunching metal, glass breaking, shards flying around our heads and feet, the rubbery smell of brake fluid and asphalt... shortly after, we were loaded into an ambulance. My husband and I were badly injured and physically our road to recovery would be a long one.

What complicated our recovery was the additional burden of financial setbacks because neither of us would be well enough to return to work for an extended period of time. In the months that followed, there were surgeries and rehab, medication and physical therapy. All of those steps to wellness came with a price and we learned, to our dismay, how many gaps were in our health insurance coverage. Worse yet, neither of us had “buckled up” when it came to making sure we had some income coming in through disability insurance which would have been a great aid in keeping additional stress at bay while we were getting back on our feet.

Eventually, it was inevitable that what we had slaved and worked so hard to develop in our own business was now something we would lose, since we were not going to be in a position to do the work we were doing prior to the accident. Keeping salary coming in was draining the assets of the business and eventually, after 10 years we had to sell our shares of the business and move on to something completely new and start from scratch. I can tell you this: you don’t want to be in that situation AND try to heal from an injury at the same time. The stress from it can eat you alive – in my case, I developed an ulcer primarily from the financial stress.

It seemed to me that every day I would hear or live a story with this same theme playing out -- family members with a cancer diagnosis who couldn’t afford the state-of-the-art medications or treatments because insurance didn’t cover it; friends who lost businesses and even their homes over medical bills they couldn’t pay ... these stories often played out on the 6 o’clock news but we never felt it touch so close to home. And so it came to me that the answer to what to do next might come from being part of the solution for the next person who may find themselves precariously in peril and unaware of what that might mean for them.

People live what they learn. It seemed that very few people were learning this life lesson any way other than the hard way. **Colonial Life is a company committed to education of working Americans – helping them understand what they have and perhaps, what they might need to “buckle up” and brace for as life unexpected challenges are more a matter of “when” then “if” it will happen.** The programs and strategies for making sure you have enough to face these health challenges, accidents or illnesses, are sound and affordable. I wish I had known about them earlier in my own life, but knowing now inspires me to teach it to others.

If you would like to learn more about these very affordable programs and how easy it is to click that “seat belt” for yourself, your family or your employees, please give me a call at 1-888-501-1153 ext. 106. My commitment is to your “safety” as you travel life’s road.



--- Julie Wilkerson, COLONIAL LIFE

<http://www.merchantcircle.com/business/COLONIAL.LIFE..949-283-3120>

**Flowers** are a huge part of our accepted cultural process for helping a love one cope with depression and/or the loss of a love one, much the same way flowers are accepted as a cultural process of celebration. To our culture sending flowers is not just a way to say “I’m sorry” or “Congratulations” it is a way to say, “I am here for you, I support you, I love you, and I am thinking of you.” When a loved one has passed on the flowers we send is not only a tribute to the one who has gone on, but also a show of love, care, concern, and support for all those left behind. We place flowers on our loved ones graves periodically throughout our life as a way to show that we still love them, that we have not forgotten them, and that we miss them. When our loved ones are depressed, the flowers we send are to show support, love, acceptance, and too convey our hopes that they will soon feel better. The promise of love, acceptance, remembrance, hope, and friendship displayed by the lovely flowers we send warms our hearts, as much as it does the person who receives the flowers.



Author of Article Marty Brown sole owner of Design Time Haven



Design Time Haven is a registered small business in Whittier, NC. I create one of kind floral arrangements to respectfully fit any décor, or occasion using high quality flowers. In addition, I make pure soy wax candles with uncut essential oils used for scent. You may visit my online store at [www.designtimehaven.com](http://www.designtimehaven.com) and you may view information on placing a custom order on this site as well. Thank you and I hope everyone has a wonderful day.

**Next Months Newsletter:**

**School Videos-  
Graduation,  
School Reunions,  
School Yearbooks,  
School: Sports, Music and Theatrical Videos**



Be sure to check out our attached coupons from MerchantCircle this month.

# Thank You!

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter. We hope you enjoyed all you’ve read here. If you have any questions or if you are interested in having a video done for yourself or a friend please contact us at [info@tearsorjoyvideo.com](mailto:info@tearsorjoyvideo.com) or call us directly at (877) 887-8658.

If you know of anyone else who would enjoy getting our newsletter, please forward it to them and then they can sign up at the email address above.

Our next newsletter will be published in March/April and will feature Tribute Videos.