Suggested wording for announcing a resident's death



Introduction

Strengthening a Palliative Approach to Care in Long Term Care, November 2019

Finding a way to let other residents know of a resident's passing can be difficult at times. Here are a few options for announcing a resident's death that are respectful, honouring and focus on remembering lives lived. Some homes do this at the next meal when most residents are in one place, but if there is a time or place that works better in your home, that is good too.

Option 1

It is with great sadness that I must announce the death of one of our residents, [FULL NAME]. As [SOME/MANY/MOST] of you may remember [HE/SHE] had been a resident here for a [SHORT/LONG] time, and in that time [HE/SHE] touched our hearts with good humour and thoughtful, caring ways. Our thoughts and prayers go out today to their family, friends and loved ones.

Option 2

Today we will take a moment to honour the life of one of our residents [FULL NAME]. [FULL NAME] died [LAST NIGHT/YESTERDAY/EARLIER TODAY] and we feel the weight of the loss from [HOME'S NAME] and from the lives of those of us who had come to know [HIM/HER].

Option 3

One of our residents, [FULL NAME], died [LAST NIGHT/YESTERDAY]. As we remember [HIM/HER] let us do so with thankful hearts as we celebrate [FIRST NAME]'s life and times we shared together.

Option 4

As [SOME/MANY] of you are aware, one of our residents, [FULL NAME], died [RECENTLY/YESTERDAY]. No doubt they will be deeply missed. Let us pause to remember and honour, [FULL NAME], by sharing stories and fond memories of their life and the moments we shared with each other.