## Glende-Nilson Funeral Home

## CATEGORY I. Basic Requirements (E.)

In West Central Minnesota, where our funeral chapels are located, there are many families of Scandinavian descent. When a Scandinavian family came in for arrangements, we asked the obvious and pertinent questions concerning the day and time of the funeral service, the musical selections, who the soloist would be and who the casketbearers would be. We eventually began asking the husband and children of the decedent what kind of a lady she was and what her interests were. We found out that she was a very kind and caring woman with many interests and one who very much enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. We eventually discovered that this lady also had a real talent for doing a type of artwork called rosemaling. Rosemaling is a Scandinavian artwork. It most closely resembles a floral design and is either painted on something or carved into something. Needless to say, it is beautiful and the artisans doing this type of work are very meticulous and skilled. We also discovered that two of this lady's daughters had been taught by her to do rosemaling. Our wheels began turning immediately! After the family had made their selection of a casket we asked them if they might consider allowing the two daughters to put rosemaling on the casket. At first they weren't too sure, stating that they didn't want to ruin the casket they had selected. But after explaining that it would be an awesome tribute to their mother and a very personal gesture on the family's part, they all willingly agreed. We also asked the family if they had a rosemaling design done by the decedent that we could possibly use as a design on the front of her service folder. The best they could come up with was a design that was done on a piece of canvas. As luck would have it, it did scan into our computer with fairly good quality and we were able to use the design on the front of the service folders. The family was absolutely thrilled that everyone attending the visitation and funeral service would be able to take a little bit of the decedent home with them. We did not use the overlay on the casket and the two daughters painted their rosemaling design on the lower end of the casket. Needless to say they were extrememly pleased and proud to tell people attending the visitation and funeral service that it was a tribute to their mother and it was "therapeutic" for them to have done it! The comments coming from people in attendance were amazing. People were very pleased and surprised to see the rosemaling on the casket which made the family feel really good. We also received many accolades from family and friends.

## Category 1: Basic Requirements E: Innovative Service

On February 24, 2007. Myers Mortuary was able to perform a particularly innovative and unique funeral service for Carol Teanne Sandberg Michelli. The family's wish to individualize the service meant modifications in most aspects of Myers' service. Myers was able to provide a service that met Myers' perpetual desire to celebrate the uniqueness of the individual and also showcased Myers' many singular programs.

Carol was of Native American heritage and enjoyed Mountain Men Rendezvous as well as hunting and motorbikes. The tribute picture, which is displayed during the viewing and service next to the sign in book and given to family members after the service, was comprised of pictures of wolves in a mountain scene with a Native American inscription. The obituary included an invitation to the attendees, "Please come to the Funeral Service in leathers or skins to honor Carol." Greg Myers, who conducted the service, was asked to do the same and he wore skins. A Native American chant was played in the background throughout the service. A local Navajo woman conducted a blanket wrapping ceremony for the bereaved. This was particularly touching and meaningful for the family. Special attention was given to the displays to have 3D representation of her many interests and they were also represented in the floral arrangements. Although she was cremated after the services at the viewing we modified the usual casket lining to reflect her heritage and had Native American blankets over and under her. She wore a traditional leather dress. The tassels and fringe that had ornaments on it were cut from her leather dress and given to family members at the Mountain Man Rendezvous. Her ashes were sprinkled over a large fire at night symbolizing sending her back to the Heavens.

In Box Elder County, where we are located, the Intermountain Indian School that was here for over three decades and the presence of the Shoshone Tribe Reservation means we have a significant Native American population. We have been pleased over the years to help reflect their culture and traditions in our services.