

# YOUR PORTRAIT OF LIFE

When terrorists struck in the United States on September 11, 2001, thousands of lives were lost in an instant. Firefighters, young brides, lawyers, and entrepreneurs were struck down indiscriminately, leading "The New York Times" newspaper to begin a series called, "Portraits in Grief" that ran almost every day in that publication for over one year.

This moving series included a short vignette that was not a resume, but instead a snapshot, focusing on a telling detail or a typical story that brought the person to life. This series became required reading in some classes and therapy groups, and many people noted that the feature changed their lives for the better. One lawyer said that reading the portraits was his daily "act of Kaddish," while others said that reading the stories inspired them to go after their own goals before it was too late.

How would you like your own "Portrait of Life" to read? Take a few minutes to write a 200-word paragraph about how you would like to be remembered upon your passing. You can read the New York Times series for inspiration at:

<http://www.nytimes.com/pages/national/portraits/index.html>

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