



OAK RIDGES HOSPICE
OF DURHAM LTD.

HONOUR GUARD CEREMONY

At Oak Ridge's Hospice, we honour each life with dignity and respect. Following a resident's passing, we offer an optional Honour Guard Ceremony, a meaningful tribute where individuals including family, staff and volunteers gather in the hospice entryway as the resident is transferred into the care of the funeral home. This brief ceremony provides families with a moment of comfort, reflection, and closure.



oakridgeshospice.com

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While a member of the care team begins with opening remarks, families can personalize the Honour Guard ceremony in various ways, including:

- Choosing whether their loved one's face is covered or uncovered
- Having staff and volunteers present at the ceremony
- Selecting a poem for reading or a piece of music for playing
- Deciding whether to walk behind the stretcher or remain in the front entryway
- Choosing to have a loved one or clergy member lead the ceremony
- Opting for a moment of silence or words of tribute
- Bringing personal mementos to place near/on the resident

These choices allow each family to shape a farewell that reflects their values and wishes.

Whether or not a family chooses to hold an Honour Guard, every resident's name is written on a wooden leaf and placed on our **Tree of Life**, a lasting symbol of their time at Oak Ridge's Hospice. In addition, our stained-glass light, crafted by a local artisan, will shine in their memory for **24 hours**.

For more information, please speak with a member of our care team.

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