

Memorial video was celebration of relative's life

By Neal Gendler
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After Amy Cramer finished viewing the video Alan Naumann made of her grandmother's life, she asked whether it would be OK to hug him.

"He did an amazing job," the Elk River woman said. She'd stopped at Naumann's studio to pick up the DVD on her way to the funeral in New York, and "he wanted to watch it with me the first time to make sure I was happy about it."

She said her reaction was "hard to put into words, but it was like my heart had wings, I was so deeply affected by it."

Cramer and her family had about a week's warning before the death, and her family had talked about making a video. She had a video of photos from her wedding five years ago, "and my dad and I were so fond of that we always said, 'Wouldn't it be nice to have something like that for

Grandma?'"

When her grandmother died, she called the man who'd made the wedding video. He couldn't do the memorial video, but recommended Naumann.

She went to his studio the next morning, bringing "photos that were so special to me, but I didn't think were even usable because some were so damaged and so faded — one even had barbecue sauce [on it]. He said, 'Don't worry about any of that. Just tell me what you like and what you want.'"

She took the video he produced overnight to the funeral.

"Everybody was so amazed," she said. "It's truly a celebration of her life. ... We were all able to watch it and, of course, we all cried. It definitely makes you feel good to watch it. It's not as much of a loss of the person."

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