



Ordering Guide

A few helpful tips to
getting the best
portrait!



memory
portraits
www.memoryportraits.com

Customized Portraits Celebrating
Treasured Memories™

We Want to Give You the Best Portrait **Every Time!**

A great portrait starts with a clear, high resolution photo! While background removal and minor blemish removal are relatively easy for our artists, more extensive editing can cause the subject to look less natural or even less like their actual appearance.

With that in mind, here are some considerations when selecting an image for your portrait:

The Wrong Photo for the Right Reasons

Often times, a family will choose to provide a poor photo for completely legitimate reasons. Concerns about facial expressions, clothing or inappropriate items in the photo can cause them to provide a lesser quality image, not realizing that our artists can easily fix a wide array of problems. If this is the case, please remind them that the clearest image is always best! You can always send multiple images for us to reference at no additional cost.



And while we love a good selfie, a close-up or angled shot often creates unflattering angles and crops out key elements of the subject. Similarly, highly-filtered social media photos with extreme coloring or cartoonish effects are problematic when trying to create a natural-looking portrait. In cases like this we typically recommend choosing the **Photo Background** option with our artists editing the photo as sent, but enhanced with the corrections you request.



Always Consider Lighting & Textures

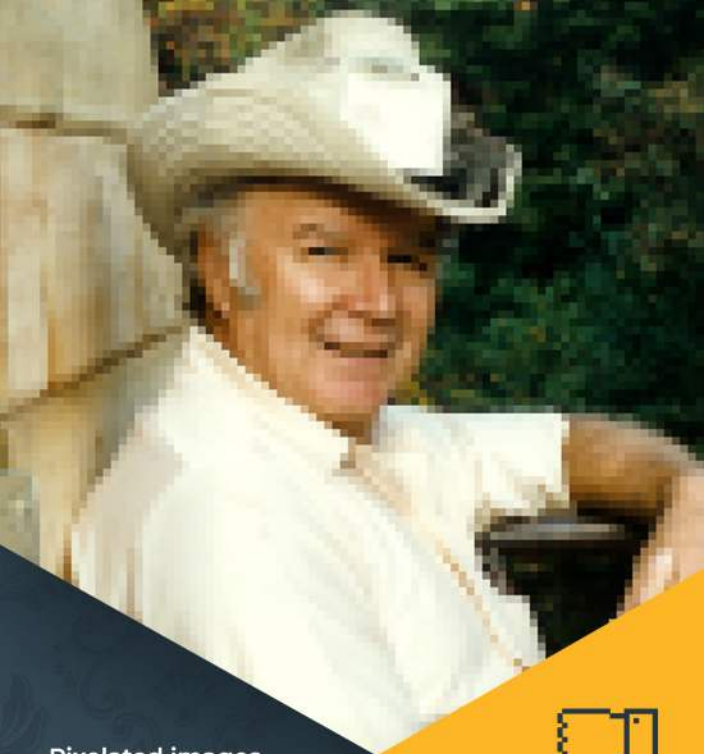
Lighting and textures are a major consideration when creating a portrait. Ideally, we want you to provide an evenly-lit subject with natural skin textures and tones. Photos with dark shadows or extremely bright lighting can lead to less than ideal results. Likewise, photos with heavy textures that need to be smoothed can end up looking blurry or cartoon-like.



Think About the Shape of Your Portrait

Memory Portraits come in standard photo sizes of 5x7, 8x10, 11x14 and 16x20. To accomplish this, we create portraits with an aspect ratio of 4:5 - meaning we work from a high-quality 4x5 inch file in the shape of a rectangle. Providing a similarly-shaped rectangular photo will allow us to provide the best possible portrait. Images that are square or long and narrow can require extensive cropping, filling in large areas with no photographic reference or vignetting. In most cases, it is best to send as much of the photo as possible and send additional photos if significant details are missing.





Pixelated images like the one above are the biggest challenge we face when creating portraits



A Clear Photo is Key!

Photo resolution can often be the difference between an ok portrait and a great portrait. The image above shows a low-resolution JPEG that is highly compressed. Pixelation like this will most likely result in a portrait that is soft /blurry and lacking in detail.

- ✓ Photos should generally be scanned at 100% with a 300 DPI resolution, but smaller photos might need to be as much as 1200 DPI.
- ✓ While typically fine, JPEG images can be highly-compressed in order to decrease file size. Make sure your JPEGs are always saved at the highest-quality setting.
- ✓ Portrait and obituary requirements are very different. Instead of using one image for both, consider scanning the photo twice with the appropriate resolution for each situation.

Backgrounds? Check! >>>

Great portraits need backgrounds that compliment the subject. Our most popular backgrounds include:

-  **Old World**
Classic style that draws inspiration from Dutch golden-age portraiture
-  **Studio**
Modern style that evokes a photographer's backdrop. Available in a wide variety of colors!
-  **Black & White**
Inspired by early 1900s photography with soft, painterly qualities



Respect copyright laws!

We are only able use images that have been purchased *legally* or that have the owner's *explicit* consent.



What's a Memorial Folder?

Memorial folders are an affordable, scaled down version of our portraits. Intended for registry books and website obituaries, the recommended printing size is **2.5" x 3.5"**.

Our services include minor blemish removal, correcting red eye, and simple background cropping or removal. If your photo requires more extensive editing or if you wish to print it out larger, we ask that you choose the **Portrait** option when ordering.

Please note that memorial folders are a *digital-only* product and are **not** eligible for reprints.



Our artists can customize your portrait with personalized images, flags or beautiful scenery upon request. If the desired subject was photographed in a scenic setting, consider the photo background option to keep the portrait looking as natural as possible.

We Create **Memories**

Memory Portraits makes personalizing your next service simple and fast. Since 2001, we have specialized in turning ordinary photographs into enlarged custom funeral portraits, offering a broad range of styles and options. Our skilled artists can remove unwanted items from the background, enhance the lighting, and reposition the subject to make your portraits look professional and exceptional.

This timeless portrait can then be shipped to you overnight for use in your visitation and service or printed directly for your own printers.

Keep In **Touch With Us**



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