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Becoming a Solar Sensation

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Becoming a Solar Sensation

The invention of the outer space cemetery



by Hannah Halusker

It's a cool autumn evening, and you are admiring the night sky from a blanket in your backyard. The stars are shimmering, the moon is bright, and you look toward the east to see a shooting star soaring through the sky. This isn't a typical shooting star, though—it's a memorial to a local family's loved one whose ashes are becoming one with space. With the help of the California-based company, Elysium Space, shooting star burials and other galactic resting places are becoming realistic alternatives to the cemeteries found here on Earth.

As recently reported in *Science*, line of celestial services in Summer who have been in the business for have built their reputations on care, having combined the two technology. The memorial begins kit in the mail, which contains Cremated remains are then placed sent back to Elysium Space to be modules until the memorial's

“...shooting star burials and other galactic resting places are becoming realistic alternatives to the cemeteries found here on Earth.”

Elysium Space announced their 2015, now rivaling Celestis Inc., the past 18 years. Both companies aerospace engineering and funeral to provide this revolutionary as Elysium Space sends a burial a capsule made of aluminum oxidized film for space travel. in the capsule, and the capsule is sorted into respective spacecraft launch date.

For as little as \$1,990, the capsule is sent into space to be honored in a variety of places. Elysium Space's Shooting Star Memorial launches the capsule into Earth's orbit, where it continues its revolution until falling to the atmosphere as a shooting star. On the other hand, the capsule could be buried on the moon's surface in what Elysium Space calls their Lunar Memorial. The last option offered is the Milky Way Memorial, which propels the capsule into deep space, beyond our own solar system, where it is able to traverse the universe for the rest of time. To distinguish themselves from Elysium Space, the rival company Celestis Inc. markets one additional service in which the capsule is sent into space, only to return to Earth after its flight. The remains can then be recovered by the family and cherished in remembrance.

In 1997, Celestis Inc. had their first spaceflight—The Founders Flight—which carried Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry and American psychologist Timothy Leary. Since then, Celestis Inc. has laid to rest many astronauts, sci-fi actors, physicists, and everyday people, and now Elysium Space will, too. Anyone can opt for one of these celestial burials—the only requirement is a few thousand dollars and a dream to become a solar sensation. 🐾