

The Importance of Memorialization and Commemoration

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“Peace of Mind is the satisfaction of knowing your wishes are being fulfilled just as you would want them to be.”

To remember, and be remembered, are natural human needs. Memorialization has been a fundamental practice in nearly every society since the dawn of history. A fixed memorial serves as a tribute to a life lived and also provides a focal point for loved ones to honor and remember an important person who has passed from their lives, and as a permanent record for future generations.

Such timeless monuments as the Lincoln Memorial, the Taj Mahal, the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial and the Great Pyramids were erected to memorialize great leaders and forgotten heroes. They are how we remember the people who were important in our lives, whether they be Presidents or parents.

Psychologists say that remembrance practices, from the funeral or memorial service to permanent memorialization, serve an important emotional function for survivors by helping to bring closure and allowing the healing process to begin. Providing a permanent resting place for the deceased whether it be traditional interment or cremation, is a dignified treatment of a loved one’s mortal remains, which fulfills the natural human desire for memorialization.

There are many unique ways to memorialize a loved one. Some of the most popular memorials types include, :

- Cemetery Monument or Marker
- Cremation Memorial
- Family Mausoleum
- Take Home Keepsakes
- Garden Memorials
- Bronze Commemoration Plaque
- Civic Monuments and Memorials
- Any other distinctive design or installation that honors the deceased

Stone Monuments have been the most popular type of memorial for centuries. It is a dignified and enduring expression of a person’s life, marks the place of their interred remains, and ensures that generations far into the future will have a place to go to honor the deceased. In circumstances where remains are interred somewhere outside the cemetery or scattered, such as burial at sea or in another country, many cemeteries will allow a memorial to be placed on the cemetery grounds, so that survivors have a place to visit that will always be maintained and preserved.

Cremation Memorials are rapidly becoming more popular as cremation becomes a more acceptable form of interment. Cremated remains can be scattered in a place that is meaningful to you, as long as it is permitted by local regulations. However, disposing of your remains in an anonymous, unmarked or public place can present difficulties for your survivors. Access to the area may be restricted for some reason in the future, undeveloped land may be developed, or any of a host of other conditions may arise that could make it difficult for your survivors to visit the site where you have chosen for them to remember you. If you wish to be scattered somewhere, consider discussing your wishes ahead of time with the person or persons who you want to do the scattering. Many people have regretted scattering the ashes of their loved ones, and not memorializing them properly. Consider a memorial in a permanently accessible place where survivors and descendants can remember your spirit – even if your physical are not there.

Take Home Keepsakes from granite etched products to porcelain pictures are a great way to remember your loved ones as a display in your own home.

Family Mausoleums can serve a large, close family where everyone can be memorialized under the same roof. Both cremated and full remains can be kept safely above ground in these beautiful homes for the deceased.

Garden Memorials and Benches serve as a way to memorialize your loved ones at your home or a place the deceased enjoyed being, and as a place where flowers and memorabilia can be placed.

Bronze Commemoration Plaques can be mounted in your home, place of work, or any other area where your loved ones were appreciated and influential. Plaques can be inlaid into a garden boulder, or on the face of a building.

Civic Monuments and Memorials are everywhere and they serve dual purposes: Commemoration and Memorialization. Places where these monuments are installed include but is not limited to football fields, corporations, city parks, etc.

The most lasting material for making a monument or memorial is *granite*. It withstands the tests of time and has been used for centuries. Other materials used include Marble, Bronze, and Slate.

Deaths are a time of grief and emotion for families, and it is often difficult, even contentious, to make a decision on a permanent memorial. In order to lift the burden from their survivors, many people design and purchase their memorial before they pass.

In addition to simplifying the grief process and lessening the financial costs to your survivors, purchasing your own memorial presents the opportunity to make it a true and distinctive reflection of the life you have lived. Expressing your interests, beliefs and accomplishments on a finely-made stone, a memorial, can be a very satisfying experience. Telling your story is a unique way to be reflective and creative in your own life, while expressing your character to future generations.

Make the planning of your memorial a shared decision. You spent your whole life with your loved ones making critical decisions, and it is recommended that you prepare your families memorial if possible for many reasons, which include: Financial benefits, reduction of hardship on family members, and making sure you and your family are remembered properly. Even though many people believe estate planning ends with the reading of a will, it actually ends with your family's personal memorial tribute. Having your families sacred ground chosen and identified with a memorial insures that your heritage and legacy will forever live on.

There is no doubt about it; we can not predict what the future will bring. Financial trouble can often times delay or indefinitely keep families from being able to purchase a memorial. Disagreements amongst family can unfortunately also bring about the same results. Feel free to go about and research further about the importance of memorialization.

We at Quincy Memorials, Inc. specialize in making the memorialization process as smooth and painless as possible.

Quincy Memorials, Inc.
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References

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