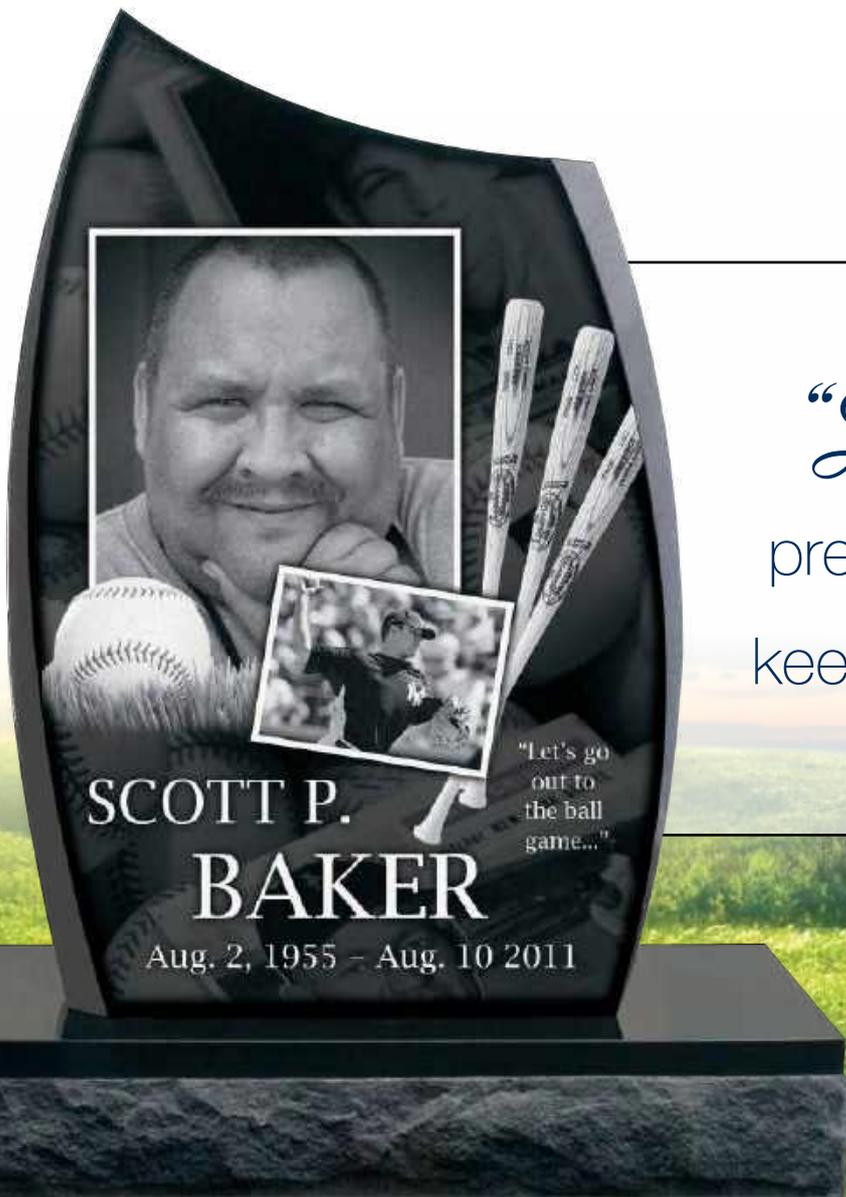


HELPING YOU CREATE A MEMORIAL

That will last forever



"Life is about making precious *memories*, let's keep them alive *forever.*"



Memorials

INTRODUCTION

CHOOSING HOW TO MEMORIALIZE YOUR LOVED ONE is an important and often-times difficult decision every memorialist understands well. For many people the number of options and possibilities available in crafting the perfect granite memorial may either seem daunting or, if this is their first experience with memorials, they may not even realize the multitude of color, shape, and design options.

This report was designed to assist you in the process of choosing the perfect memorial for your loved one. There is only one rule we ask you to consider, namely, NEVER be rushed into any decision. A granite memorial is forever, and feeling like you need to have it set in the cemetery by a certain date, or feeling pressured by a consultant to make a decision is the one true way to not end up with exactly what you want.

What you should know about GRANITE

Throughout history, mankind has memorialized those whom we've loved and respected. This tradition developed not only as a means to pay our respects, but to record their history and honor their accomplishments so future generations would know who they were. Even the word monument comes from the Latin word "monere," meaning "to remind". The creation and placing of monuments, even if only a pile of rocks, has been one of mankind's oldest traditions.

Many different types of materials have been used over the centuries to memorialize lost loved ones, but the only material that can stand the test of time is rock. Today the most popular monument material is Granite.

There is no other natural stone used for commercial purposes that is harder or more difficult to break than granite.

And here's why:

- Granite is well known for its ability to resist erosion and its durability to withstand the elements in any environment.
- Granite comes in such a wide range of colors that no other stone can match its natural beauty when polished.
- Granite's variety of colors and versatility allow for unlimited design options and the use of different techniques to produce different textures and looks makes granite the perfect medium for memorializing someone we loved.

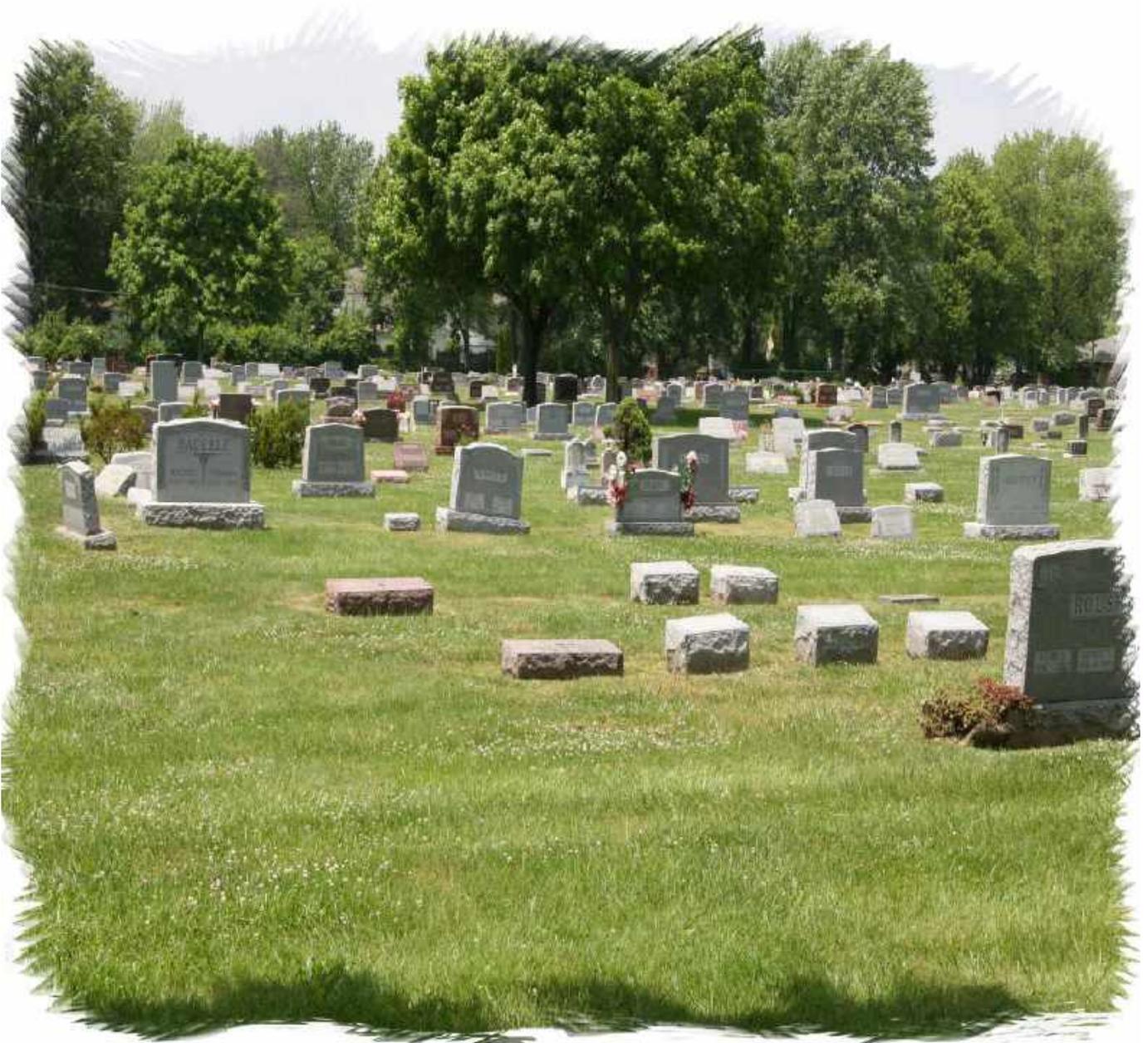
NOTE: Not all granites are classified by the U.S. Bureau of Mines as suitable for "monumental stone." According to the Bureau's standards for "Class 1" granites, they must meet exacting requirements such as uniform texture and color, freedom from flaws and general suitability for polishing and carving as well as resistance to weathering.

Step 1: UNDERSTAND THE CEMETERY REGULATIONS

This is absolutely the first step in choosing your memorial. Similar to homeowner's associations, all cemeteries have rules and regulations concerning the style and size of memorials placed on their grounds. Some only allow lawn level grass markers, others require a minimum number of lots depending on the width of the base. Some have height restrictions.

Although your local monument dealer will most likely be familiar with the rules and regulations of the destination cemetery, it is a very good idea for you to have a clear understanding of your plot(s) dimensions and any restrictions the cemetery may have.

Knowledge of cemetery size, shape, and style limitations is critical in selecting the perfect memorial.



Step 2: SINGLE - or - COMPANION

Now that there is a clear understanding of what can and cannot be placed in the cemetery, the next choice is usually whether the memorial will be for an individual or will represent a married couple or even a family. The constraining factor in this is typically the width of the plot/plots and therefore the base width of the memorial(s).

Families may have 4-6 plots whereby individual stones may memorialize each person, or it may be their desire to celebrate the family as a unit and collectively erect a single large monument honoring that relationship.



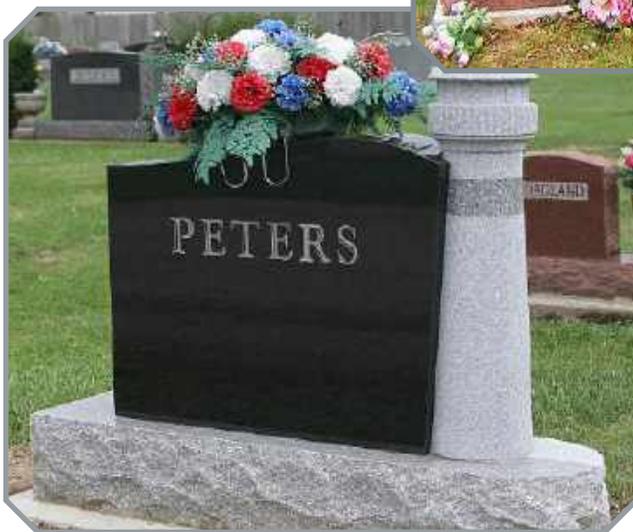
Above: Companion Marker



Above: Single Marker



Left: Companion Marker
Family of Four



Above: Single Marker



Above: Companion Marker

Step 3: UPRIGHTS - or - FLAT GRASS MARKERS

Should your cemetery place no height restrictions on upright monuments you now have the choice of memorializing anywhere from 6 inches in height (called a BEVEL) all the way up to a sky scraping obelisk. Again the main restricting factor, outside of budget, will most likely be the width of the plot(s) which will determine the width of the base on which most uprights depend.

Grass markers can still be adorned with images, laser etchings, and decorative artwork, but upright stones will offer a far greater opportunity for variation and creativity.



Above: Upright Monument

Stacked Images - Top & Middle: Bevels
Stacked Images - Bottom: Grass Marker

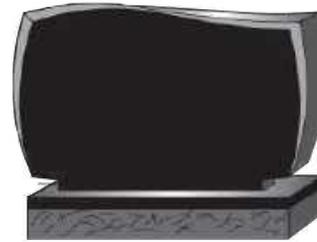
Step 4: SHAPES

Upright memorials come in a wide variety of shapes. Perhaps more than you ever expected. From traditional serp tops and round tops to custom shapes you imagined yourself. Want a memorial in the shape of your native state? It can be done. In the shape of a cowboy boot, lego block, giant book? Imagination is the primary limitation when it comes to shape.

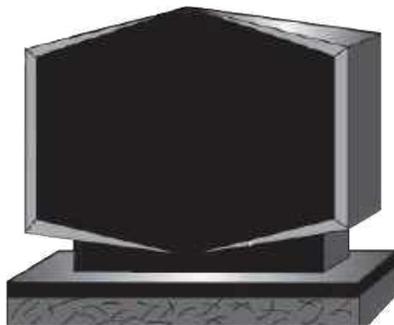
The following represents some of the most popular shapes.



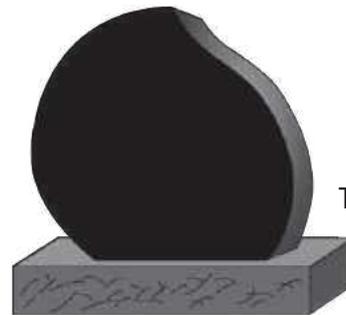
Serp Top with
Front Chamfers



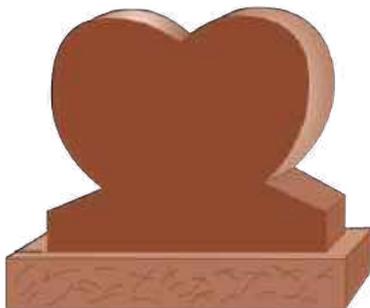
French Curve



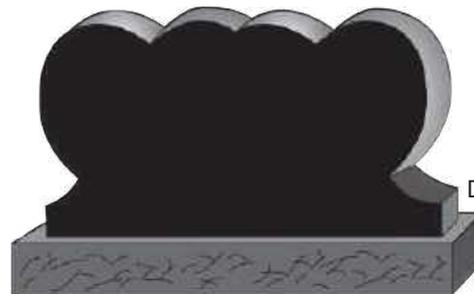
Roof Top



Tear Drop



Single Heart



Double Heart

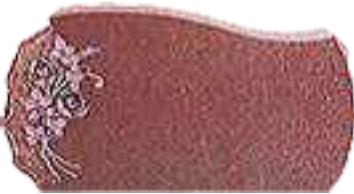


Angel Double Heart
Angel on Left Side

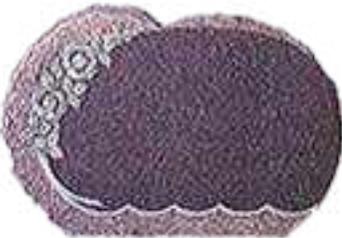


Angel Single Heart
Angel on Right Side

MORE POPULAR SHAPES - SELECT SERIES



TSS 505



TSS 515



TSS 935



TSS 550



TSS 600



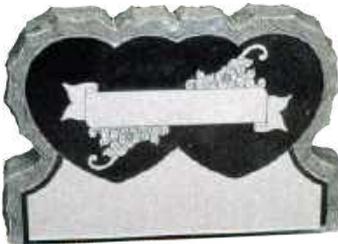
TSS 780



TSS 620



TSS 695



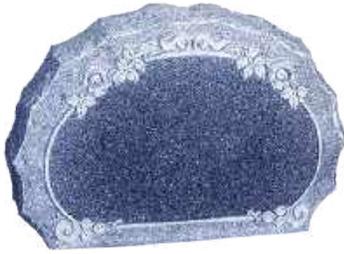
TSS 665



TSS 700



TSS 730



TSS 735



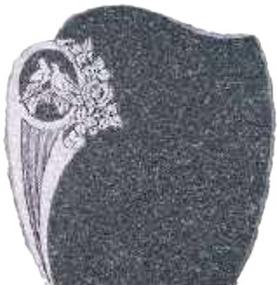
TSS 775



TSS 800



TSS 1101



TSS 1120

Step: 5: COLORS

Literally dozens of colors to choose from, mined from all over the world. Here are some of the most popular.

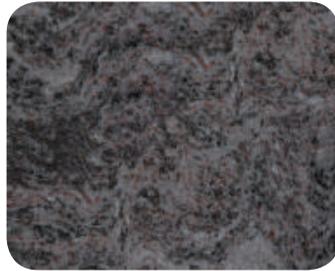
American Black



Autumn Mist



Bahama Blue



Black Ultimate



Blue Pearl



Canadian Green



Canadian Mahogany



Canadian Pink



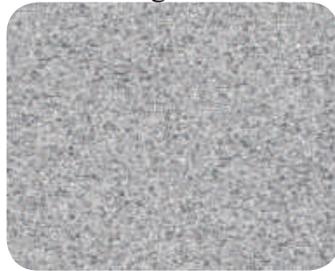
Colonial Rose



Dakota Mahogany



Georgia Blue



India Red



Mill Lane



Missouri Red



Moonlight Grey



Newbury Grey



Paradiso



Pink Pearl



Royal Mahogany

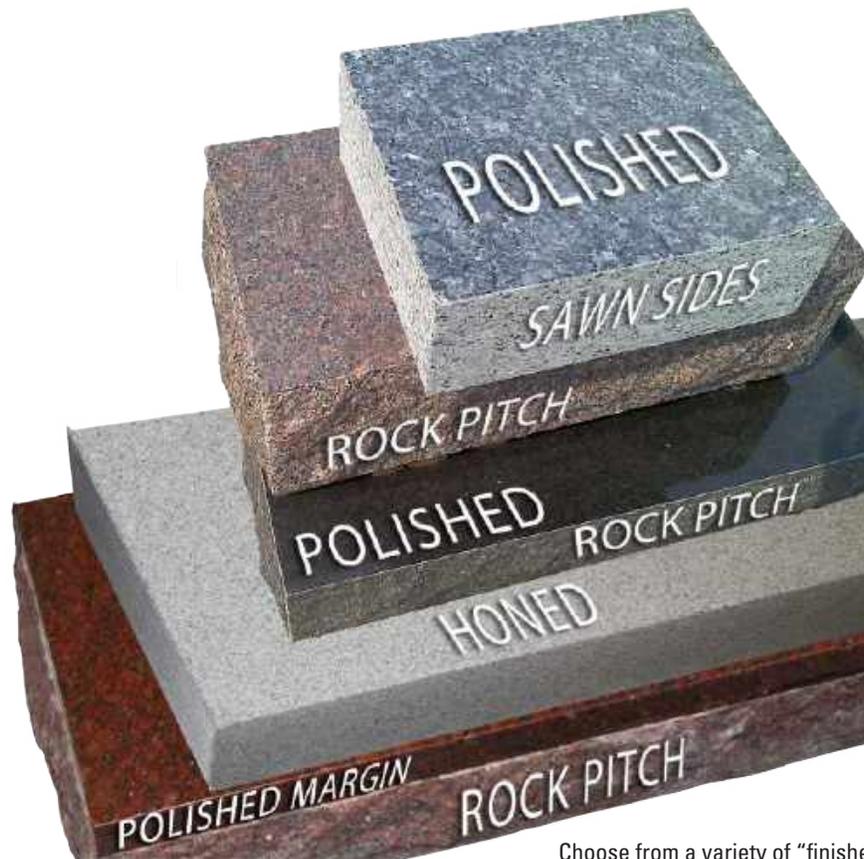


Wausau Red



Step 6: FINISHES

There are 3 primary finishes to a granite memorial.



Choose from a variety of "finishes".

SAWN

The stone, when cut to size results in a "sawn sides" finish which as you might expect is little more than the smooth surface of the granite itself.

POLISHED

Granite surfaces can be "polished" into a smooth, glassy finish which lends to a very attractive refined appearance. Oftentimes, depending on the color of the granite, the polish will cause the sun to reflect and shimmer off the monument.

ROCK PITCHED

Chiseled by hand to give a more balanced "natural" finish to the stone. Although rough, there is an aesthetic symmetry to sides and a definite unmatched uniqueness to the monument.

DESIGN ELEMENTS

FONTS

There are 2 primary elements to consider when choosing your fonts. The first is the style of font itself, and the second is the font finish. Here is a list of some of the most popular memorial fonts, but original fonts can actually be created if that is something you would choose to have.



Amaze



Brush



GOTHIC



CONDENSED ROMAN



MODIFIED ROMAN



BLACK



Murray Hill



FS-PS



Old English



VERMARCO



Zaph

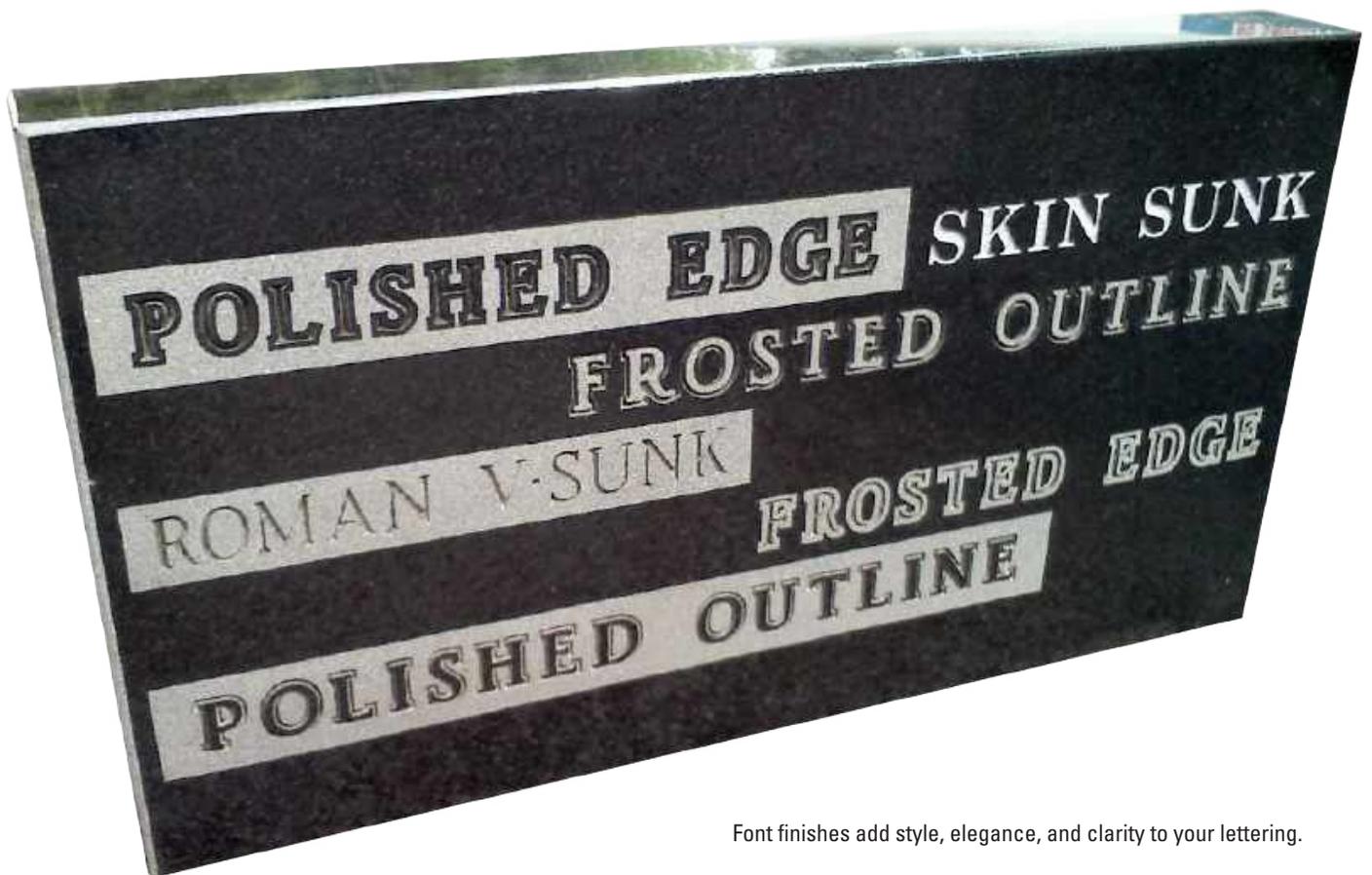


Times *Italic*

Scores of popular fonts, or even invent one yourself.

FONT FINISHES

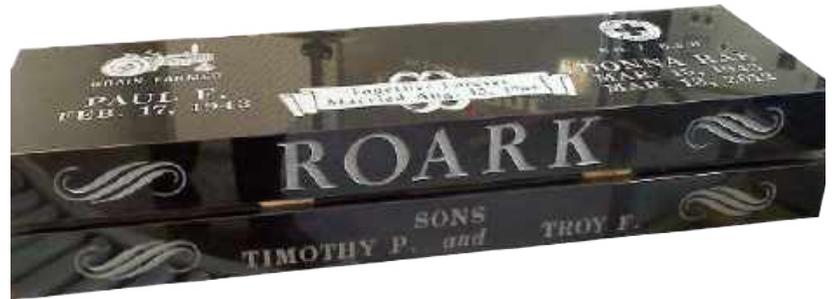
It may be necessary to see actual examples to clearly understand the differences among the various font finishing style. Here are a few of the most popular.



Font finishes add style, elegance, and clarity to your lettering.

LITHO TINT

For greater contrast between lettering, carvings and the surrounding stone, there is a process called tinting, which is similar to painting the stone with a silver, black, gold, tint.



SAND-CARVED ARTWORK

Most Memorialists have catalogues of hundreds if not thousands of different artworks that can be carved into the stone. From nature settings, to hobbies, to military insignia, trade emblems, religious symbols, animals, vehicles and more... There is bound to be a perfect graphic to honor your loved one. Here are just a tiny representation of what can be done.



CERAMIC TILES

Images can be inset into the memorial on durable, non-fading ceramic tiles.



LASER ETCHINGS

A fantastic alternative to sand-carved memorials are laser etchings on black granite. Choose an image from an extensive library or have a custom setting created for you.

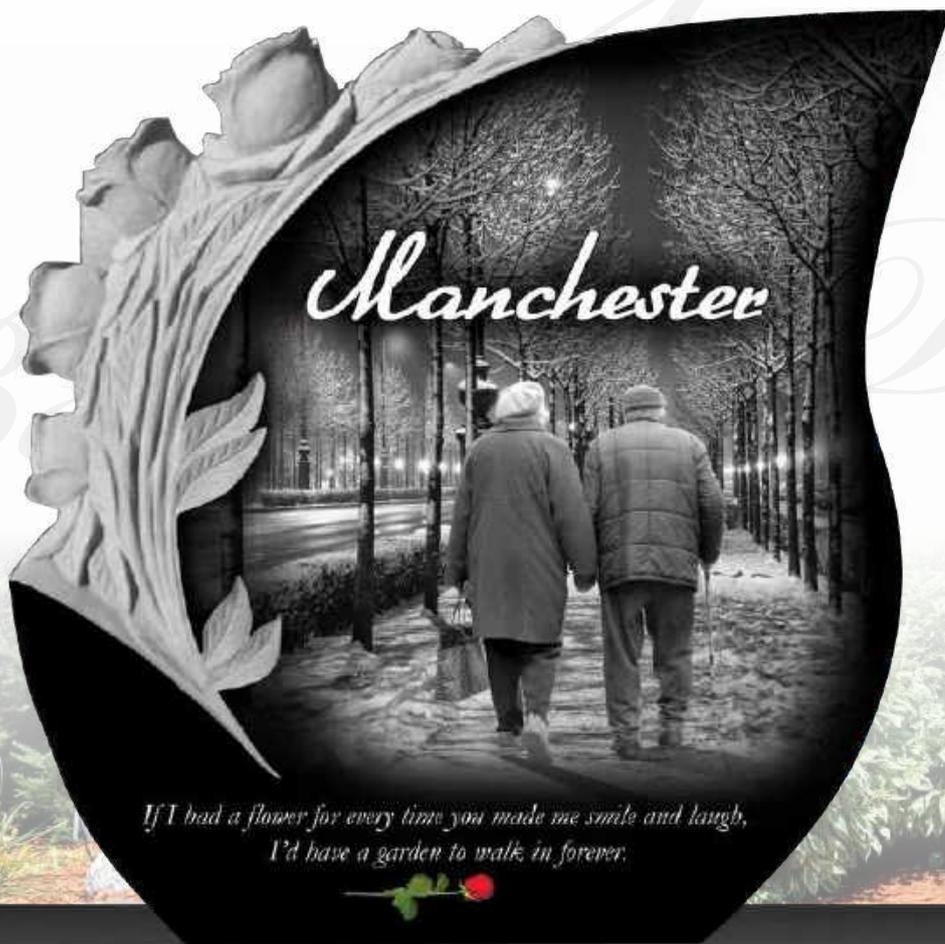


NOTES

Keeping Memories Alive

Daring

Classic



“Life is what
you *celebrate*.
All of it.
Even its end.”

-Joanne Harris



Roger B.
Feb. 13, 1937
Dec. 8, 2010



Mar. 1, 1956

Wendy O.
Nov. 22, 1938
Jan. 2, 2014

