

How to Personalize a Physical Memorial

Many grief experts believe that placing a loved one's remains to rest is an important ritual that provides closure. Additionally, it may help grieving loved ones to acknowledge the reality of death.

Having a permanent physical memorial like a headstone or marker is also an important step in the grieving process. It can provide a physical place for family and friends to remember a deceased loved one.

Cremation Memorials are Important

With cremation, selecting a permanent marker is sometimes overlooked. If you choose cremation, selecting a permanent marker is still an important part of the healing process for grieving loved ones.

Telling a Deceased Loved One's Story

Choosing a physical marker or headstone design begins with finding the most meaningful way to tell a loved one's story. There are many personalization options available. You may choose the physical memorial type, color or size and shape. You can also choose customized adornments that will best tell a loved one's story for future generations to appreciate. Often, no-obligation consultations with designers can provide a free rendering of your proposed memorial.

Physical Memorial Options

Choose an option that will help friends and family best express their remembrance and love for your deceased love one. Options for permanent physical markers include:

- Flat or upright grave markers or headstones
- Benches or “monubenches”
- Public art depicting civic or military service
- Personalized statues
- Cremation memorials
- Cultural monuments
- Living headstones with embedded technology
- Custom vaults or mausoleums
- Customized plaques
- A tree planted above a biodegradable urn
- Memorial garden
- Art or jewelry created from transformed remains
- Living reefs created from transformed remains

Personalization Options

You may choose to personalize a physical marker in many ways, including:

- Photographs or drawings
- Carvings depicting special moments or events from a loved one’s life
- Art objects
- Special colors or flags to represent country or organization affiliation
- Accessories like special lighting, vases, or other memorabilia

Whether you choose burial, cremation, or another option, a permanent memorial, marker, or headstone helps give family and friends an opportunity to remember a loved one for generations to come.