

by Johnny Phillips



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**ICCFA
Magazine
spotlight**

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► Since 1898, **Coldspring** has served the architectural, memorial, residential and industrial markets with all types of natural stone, bronze and industrial and diamond-tooling products. With headquarters, a primary manufacturing facility and bronze foundry in Cold Spring, Minnesota, the company has operations across the country, including 30 quarries and several fabrication facilities. In 2016, the company's headquarters, primary manufacturing operations and three Minnesota-based quarries received ANSI/NSC 373 Sustainable Production of Natural Dimension Stone certification.

CREMATION MEMORIALIZATION

As the cremation rate continues to rise, cemeterians must become familiar with the types of memorialization available for cremation families.



Granite benches are available in numerous designs and can either stand alone or complement cemetery gardens, private estates or community mausoleums.

With cremation, the need to memorialize remains

The trend toward cremation has reached an all-time high. Today, studies show slightly more than half of people choose cremation over traditional burial due to its convenience, affordability and flexibility. And cremation's popularity is expected to have staying power, continuing to grow until it eventually hits a plateau (at well over 50 percent).

Accompanying this changing preference is the misperception that permanent memorials aren't associated with cremation. Scattering remains—especially Hollywood's depiction of it—is often associated with cremation.

But in real life, families often experience a deep need to visit their loved one at a permanent location that won't change if a property is sold or a location isn't easily accessible. Having a place to visit a loved one is an important part of the healing process, and permanent memorials can help families through their grief.

What's more, selecting a lasting memorial is an important part of a family's heritage. Memorials can tell important elements of the loved one's life story to future generations.

In some cases, cremation memorials incorporate elements symbolizing the loved one's hobbies, interests, religion or military service. A permanent memorial can show the world the value and importance of a loved one.

Cremation options

Though cremation is viewed as a simpler, more convenient alternative to burial, it doesn't mean a one-size-fits-all approach will work for memorialization. Many options are available for permanent memorialization when cremation is chosen, yet consumers often remain unaware of the possibilities.

In response to the rising rate of cremation, cemeteries are offering increasing options for

CREMATION MEMORIALIZATION



A pillar memorial combining granite and bronze.

cremation memorialization, including ossuaries, cenotaphs, columbaria, cremation gardens, private mausoleums and traditional burial. All are available in a wide variety of price points.

Perhaps the most well-known memorial associated with cremation is the columbarium. Columbaria are available as pre-assembled structures, or they can be extensively designed, including both stand-alone configurations and those that reside within another structure.

What's more, columbaria can be customized with various architectural styles, carvings, murals, sculptures and other ornamental elements.

In addition, the following beautiful tributes are becoming increasingly popular in cemeteries across the country:

- Granite uprights and memorials. While many people associate granite uprights and markers with burials, they also can provide lasting and beautiful tributes for cremated loved ones. A skilled manufacturer can fashion a granite memorial from a variety of color selections, incorporating contours, sandblasted artwork, carvings and other designs to express a loved one's personal story.

- Boulders and stones. Embedded with a bronze memorial of the loved one, granite boulders and stones can be beautiful additions to a cremation garden. They add attractive structure to the garden atmosphere, helping provide an place where loved ones will want to visit.

- Pillars. Cremation pillars combine the beauty of granite and bronze to create a personalized memorial. Images and words can be captured in bronze for a customized tribute.

- Personalization with bronze. Memorials for cremation can include bronze markers on granite, including columbaria and facings to other markers. Bronze markers provide a beautiful, long-lasting option for personalizing the marker.

Bronze also provides an excellent medium for transferring photography and images for personalizing, which is becoming more popular in recent years. Today's consumers value personalization and customization, and bronze provides the ability to create a highly customized memorial.

- Bronze butterflies. Attached to cremation benches or boulders, bronze butterflies bear a loved one's name and dates. Bronze butterfly memorials are rising in popularity for their creative and natural symbolism of rebirth and new life.

- Benches. Granite benches are available in numerous designs and can either stand alone or complement private estates, community mausoleums or cemetery gardens, and offer the option of incorporating bronze plaques or cremation urns.

- Glass-front niches. Custom-designed glass-front niches offer numerous opportunities for creating a personalized memorial. Loved ones may place keepsakes or mementos alongside the cremation urn for display. □