

Frequently Asked Memorial Questions

Should I buy a bronze memorial or a traditional memorial?

This is a decision you must make based upon the requirements of your cemetery as well as your personal likes and dislikes. Bronze memorials must be placed level with the lawn. They are generally located in memorial parks. Memorial Parks are usually attractive cemeteries with all bronze memorials on granite bases level with the lawn. Most bronze memorials can be produced with a vase for flowers. Designs are somewhat limited by the available design patterns from the foundries. They can be personalized by using a wide range of emblems such as praying hands, crosses, masonic emblems, eastern stars, doves, religious, fraternal, civic and sports emblems. Bronze memorials are permanent. The nature of the material is that it will patina. It will turn eventually to a light greenish tint. This is the nature of the material. Bronze memorials can be refinished to look almost new.

Traditional memorials are usually made today in granite. There are many sizes, shapes and colors available today. The only limitation to you is your imagination. Upright memorials can be made to reflect the lives of your family members. I strongly recommend that an experienced memorialist be consulted before you make any decisions. Cemetery and funeral home sales persons simply lack the experience.

Must I purchase my memorial from the cemetery? They have lead me to believe that I must!

Some cemeteries tell you that you must purchase your memorial and/or your memorial installation from them. Some cemeteries lead you to believe that you must purchase from them or you will lose care rights. The answer to this frequently asked question is simple and clear. You have the right no matter what state you live in to purchase your memorial from the concern of your choice. No cemetery or third party individual can force you to buy from them. They can not create rules and/or fees or charges which force you to purchase from them or which make it financially impossible for you to purchase from someone else. Any cemetery or cemerterian who persists in trying to force you to purchase from them should be reported to the proper authorities. If you need additional information, please e-mail me at Eternaljustice@bellatlantic.net.

I want to purchase a traditional upright memorial but my cemetery says that it is not allowed. What can I do?

You must determine the type cemetery your lots are in or the type section your lots are in. The cemetery does have the right to establish sections and even the entire cemetery as a memorial park with all memorials restricted to lawn level bronze and/or granite. This should be disclosed to you at the time you purchase

your lots. I have had several cases where cemeteries were told that the purchaser wanted to purchase an upright memorial and they were sold lots in areas which were restricted to lawn level bronze memorials. In such cases, the cemetery must allow the upright memorial or they must pay to have the family members moved to an area where they can install an upright memorial. When purchasing lots it is important to discuss the type memorial you plan to purchase for your family and if need be make sure that the contract for the lot includes language which will specifically indicate that you can install an upright memorial.

I have compared prices with the cemetery and a local memorial dealer and the cemetery is so much higher. The salesperson insists that the higher prices are due to the better quality they provide. He insists that the memorialist uses materials which are not high quality. I do not know what to believe. Can you help?

The answer is rather simple. In most cases the local memorialist has been in business for many years. Experience is the key to good memorialization. The local memorialist will certainly have more experience in selecting materials and in designing your family memorial. The cemetery plants seeds in the minds of the consumer to try to convince them to pay their high prices. The contention that their higher prices are a result of their better quality is in my mind ludicrous and simply not a fact. I recommend that you trust the experience of your local memorialist to advise you as to the quality of the memorial he proposes for your family.

I have talked with several memorialists and many of them insist that my memorial must be made from a Barre or a Rock of Ages granite? They say that the Georgia Granite is inferior. It does cost less. What is the real story?

This questions arises all of the time. I will explain as I have always explained to my families. When the Lord created this earth, many types of stone were created. Two of those types are marble and granite. Years ago, marble was used much more than granite simply because marble is by nature a soft material. White marble was easier to cut and carve. Granite is a much harder and permanent material but years ago it was much more difficult to cut and carve granite. As tools developed over the years and as technology improved, it became easier and more cost effective to work with granite. Granite is permanent. If you polish it the polish surface will remain and will not deteriorate. If you letter it, it will not fade. It is permanent. As a result of this permanence, granite is the material of choice today. The color of the granite depends upon the quarry from which the granite is extracted.

Barre granite or Rock of Ages granite comes from Barre, Vermont. It is a dark blue gray color with an even grain. There are several grades of the granite. The average person would find it next to impossible to determine the difference. Most memorialists use the medium or the dark stock. The fact is that Barre granite is a permanent material which is used 20% of the time.

Georgia granite comes from Elberton, Georgia which is located about one hour

west of Atlanta, Georgia. It is a fine grain blue gray granite with an even grain. There are light and dark grades of Elberton Blue. The better grade is the Dark Elberton Blue granite. Like Barre granite the Georgia granite is permanent. It is used about 50 to 60% of the time. More granite is quarried and manufactured in Elberton for monumental purposes than any city of the world. Elberton is known as the granite capitol of the world.

The Barre granite is a medium grain granite and the Georgia granite is a fine grain material. Both granites will absorb some moisture. All granites do. They will dry out quickly as the weather dries. Both granites over the course of many years will become soiled and might require cleaning. Barre granite seems to clean up faster than Georgia granite but they both can be cleaned very nicely by an experienced technician.

Georgia granite is the lower priced granite basically because manufacturing costs in the south are much lower than they are in the north. Barre is not better than Georgia any more than Georgia is better than Barre.

The bottom line is this. You should see the two materials. Compare the looks of the two materials. Compare the prices and decide based upon all of these factors. Do not choose Barre because someone tried to convince you that it is better. Both materials are fine and quality materials from which to design and manufacture your memorial.