

ETCHED IN STONE

(Engraving/Lettering an Existing Memorial Process)

You may realize you need to add some engraving to a stone at the funeral home, at your home, or at the cemetery. It is something that a funeral home should bring up to you as the funeral process is not really completed until a name and dates have been engraved on an existing memorial or a memorial is purchased. The funeral home may take care of it for you but if not, it is something that can be ordered completely over the phone by calling **1-800-696-4402**. It helps to have some simple information ready before you call though. We will ask you these simple questions: Name of Cemetery & Town, Lot # & Section at Cemetery, Family Name on the Stone, Present Names currently on the stone, New Lettering to add, Date of Birth & Death, and Your contact Info.

Before you call, have your cemetery lot deed available to answer any questions about where the memorial is located. Second, if you live in the area and can find out how the names and dates are lined up and laid out (full dates, abbreviated dates or just the years), that will speed up the process as you can get an estimate almost immediately that way. Otherwise, you will have to wait until after we have inspected the memorial. Once you have received and double checked the free no obligation estimate that we sent and made sure all the dates and spelling are correct, you will need to sign the contract and permit if applicable and send full payment upfront.

We then receive your order and will need to start our process. In the first step we must make our first visit and acquire a rubbing/impression of the font and size of the writing on the stone. We do this by using the location information above to find the stone and using a special paper to get the impression. We try to get these when we are in the area so they may not be done right away. Some stones can be difficult to find so any landmarks and directions can be helpful. We will also take a picture of the stone as well as make sure all lettering desired can fit. We then bring the rubbing back to our office and have a stencil made up based on the information gathered. We line up the name and dates as they should appear on the stone based on the rubbing. We will also match fonts and size of lettering here. We then have the stencil printed up finishing up step 2.

Step 3 is the actual application of the stencil and the engraving of the lettering and is the second time we visit the stone. This can be done directly in the cemetery and does not require any removal of the monument. The back of our stencil has a light adhesive to which we apply to the specified area of the stone we are doing the lettering to. The stencil is measured out accordingly to make sure it is level and centered to the other names and dates already on the memorial. We then set up all of our sandblasting equipment and take out the areas of the stencil that we intend to sandblast. We then sandblast the letters to the appropriate depth and peel the stencil off the stone. This completes the engraving/lettering of an existing memorial unless you also ask for a cleaning to which we may do right then or soon after depending on the time of year. You will be notified by mail that the engraving has been completed.