

**Media Contact:**  
Tarah Beaven  
P: 415-359-2306  
[tarah@landispr.com](mailto:tarah@landispr.com)  
[www.landispr.com](http://www.landispr.com)



Hilary Burns  
P: 415.561.0888  
[hilary@landispr.com](mailto:hilary@landispr.com)  
[www.landispr.com](http://www.landispr.com)

## Personalized Memorials Portray Stories of the Deceased for Future Generations

*Full-time memorial designer is first in funeral home profession*

**July 29, 2013 (Lakewood, WA)** – Does a name, date of birth and death, summarize a life? Memorials get personal with the funeral home profession’s first full-time memorial designer. The director of memorial designs, David Montgomery, creates memorials for a family of cemeteries, funeral homes and crematories with locations throughout the U.S. including [Mountain View Funeral Home and Cemetery](#), [Chapel of the Chimes Hayward](#), [Chapel of the Chimes Oakland](#), [Sunset Lawn Chapel of the Chimes Sacramento](#) and [Skylawn Funeral Home](#).

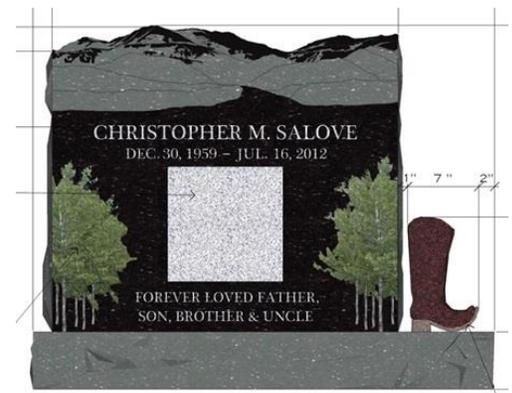
“Personalized memorials are a vehicle to tell a story about a loved one,” said David Montgomery, director of memorial designs. “I’ve managed the creation of hundreds of memorials over the past 16 years that range in complexity and size; however, all the memorials share a common thread – a window into the life of a loved one.”

Personalized memorials are created through a collaborative process between Montgomery and families to help him better understand the personality and values of their loved ones. The outcome is a one-of-a-kind memorial tribute to an individual or an entire family. Personalized memorials are available in many different styles, from a flat memorial with a photo to an elaborate memorial depicting the person or a favorite hobby.

### Designing a Custom Memorial Heals

In September of 2012, Dave Salove, who later joined Mountain View Memorial Park & Crematory as the general manager, started the process of memorializing his deceased brother, Christopher Salove. “There is no comfort looking at images or videos of a loved one if there isn’t a physical place to go,” said Dave Salove, general manager of Mountain View Memorial Park & Crematory. “Having that physical place brings importance and remembrance to my brother’s life. The memorial wasn’t for my brother; it was for the entire family and future generations to remember the traits that made him who he was.”

Dave Salove, with input from family members, collaborated with Montgomery to create a 36 x 36 inch black granite memorial illustrating his brother’s life. The design portrays a scene that juxtaposes Christopher Salove’s favorite horse as a child and his favorite dog as a young adult within the same setting. The memorial also includes a carving of Christopher Salove’s cowboy boots that had a distinct curled up toe and a collage of 16 photos cast on a 12 x 12 inch piece of bronze.



*David Montgomery designs a personalized memorial for Christopher Salove that portrays the memories and hobbies remembered by the Salove family.*

“It’s an afterlife image of my brother,” said Dave Salove. “The process of creating my brother’s memorial continues to be one of the most personal experiences I have ever had in my life.”

“It is so rewarding to create personalized memorials,” said Montgomery. “It makes me feel like I have achieved something special for that family and also helps the families and individuals heal through the process.”

David Montgomery designs personalized memorials for a family of cemeteries, funeral homes and crematories with locations throughout the United States including: [Mountain View Funeral Home and Cemetery](#), [Chapel of the Chimes Hayward](#), [Chapel of the Chimes Oakland](#), [Sunset Lawn Chapel of the Chimes Sacramento](#) and [Skylawn Funeral Home](#). For more information, please contact a specific location.

#### **ABOUT MOUNTAIN VIEW FUNERAL HOME, MEMORIAL PARK & CREMATORY**

Established in 1915 and located in Lakewood, WA. For more information, visit [www.mountainviewtacoma.com](http://www.mountainviewtacoma.com).

#### **ABOUT CHAPEL OF THE CHIMES HAYWARD**

Established in 1872 as a seven-acre cemetery and located in Hayward, CA. For more information, visit [www.hayward.chapelofthechimes.com](http://www.hayward.chapelofthechimes.com). (FD 1240)

#### **ABOUT CHAPEL OF THE CHIMES OAKLAND**

Established in 1909 as a crematory and columbarium, Chapel of the Chimes Oakland is a leading cremation service provider in Northern California. For more information, visit <http://oakland.chapelofthechimes.com/>. (FD 1254)

#### **ABOUT SUNSET LAWN CHAPEL OF THE CHIMES SACRAMENTO**

Established in 1938 as a 12-acre cemetery for World War II Soldiers and located in Sacramento, CA. For more information, visit [www.sunsetlawn.chapelofthechimes.com](http://www.sunsetlawn.chapelofthechimes.com). (FD 1023)

#### **ABOUT SKYLAWN FUNERAL HOME AND MEMORIAL PARK**

Established in 1959 as a non-sectarian cemetery in San Mateo, CA, a state-of-the-art funeral home was added in 2006. For more information, visit [www.skylawnmemorialpark.com](http://www.skylawnmemorialpark.com). (FD 1848)

**MEDIA, PLEASE NOTE:** To request high resolution images or an interview with a David Montgomery or Dave Salove, please contact Tarah Beaven (415.561.0888/[tarah@landispr.com](mailto:tarah@landispr.com)) or Hilary Burns (415.561.0888/[hilary@landispr.com](mailto:hilary@landispr.com)).

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