



# Bert Gast Memorial Biondon Bronze Trophy Winner

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**Name or Description on Memorial:** Lightning McQueen

**Type/Color of stone (ex. Granite, Bahama Blue):** Elite Green Granite, Georgia Grey

**Overall height and width:** Ledger: 7' x 3'; Car: 32" x 8"

**Please write a brief story behind the design, describing the meaning of symbols, shapes and lettering.**

This family's memorial is to their 4 year old boy born with a rare disease that finally took his life. Originally they wanted a ledger with a small serp top die attached at one end. The die was to be cut down to look like the profile of a car with dots to represent headlights. There were also to be two strips on the ledger to hold matchbox cars.

With some further investigation, we discovered the reason for the automotive theme centered around the boy's fascination with the movie "Cars" and that he loved playing with matchbox cars. We determined that this had the potential to be something truly unique and special.

Our design team submitted a suggestion to the family that we actually build a granite "Lightning McQueen". And that we would fabricate an actual racetrack on the ledger with banked corners.

It really took no time at all for the family to begin to see the possibilities and express enthusiasm for our ideas. At this our designers and builders went to work.

We first purchased a plastic toy rendition of the Lightning McQueen car. From this we were able to remove detail and make enough adjustments to not infringe on a copyright, but keep the spirit of the car intact. We then created the car from our Elite Green granite. The family began to see it come to reality and began creating the details for memorializing their son. Putting a Middle Eastern symbol on the hood, birth and death dates as white letters on the tires, and an epitaph on the lower panels, gave them much satisfaction. We added a few automotive details including headlights, gas cap, tail pipes, custom wheels, and tail lights to enhance the reality of this representation.

Once the car was completed we had the task of carving a racetrack into the ledger with banked corners. This would give the friends and siblings of the family the ability to run matchbox cars all around it. We made the initial pattern with sandblasting then finished the banked corners by hand, an effort that took many hours to complete.

What you see here is the finished product that represents a young boys love of the movie "Cars", his passion for racing matchbox cars and a fitting memorial to his passing. This effort provides another example of our commitment to establishing "Legacy for Eternity©".



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