

RAISING THE MARKER IN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN



The large marker in our **Memorial Garden** has had a problem in which water has been "wicking" up into the porous granite, causing an unsightly stain on the lower part of the marker. On April 15, 2010, in order to cure this problem, Wake Monument Company raised the marker six inches, allowing water to drain off the base and away from the marker.

Sound easy? This monument weighs over 3,500 pounds. And raising it was done by hand, not by a crane or other machine. The photos below show how four very strong men pried the stone out of its bed and inched it upward, one side at a time, so that dry concrete could be packed underneath. The job took three and a half hours, which was an hour and a half longer than they predicted. The stone now rests six inches higher and drier.

The photo below, taken earlier, shows the stain caused by the water "wicking" up from the soil around the bottom of the stone.



Chris, of Wake Monument Co., chips away at the old concrete foundation, laid in 1994, to make a slot into

which a jack will be placed between the granite base and the foundation.



A house jack is placed between the granite base and the concrete foundation.



Chris jacks up the left side of the marker. Wayne (behind) waits for a space to open up so he can shovel the dry concrete in under the base. The concrete is dry now, but water will seep into it and it will harden. The white strips are padding to keep the jack from scratching the marker.



At the back of the marker, Tom (front) and James (in the ball cap) pry up the stone so Wayne (with the

shovel) can start to pack concrete under the base.



The left side has been raised six inches and packed underneath with concrete. Now they will raise the right

side.



After the right side has been raised, Chris levels the marker.



After the stone is raised, Tom, Chris, Wayne, and James pose with their handiwork. Tom, at left, is 24 years old and has been with Wake Monument only two years. Chris (second from left) is the crew chief, and has been with the company many years. Wayne (second from right) is the son of James (at right) and has been at Wake monument a few months. James has been at Wake Monument 42 years and is 70 years old.



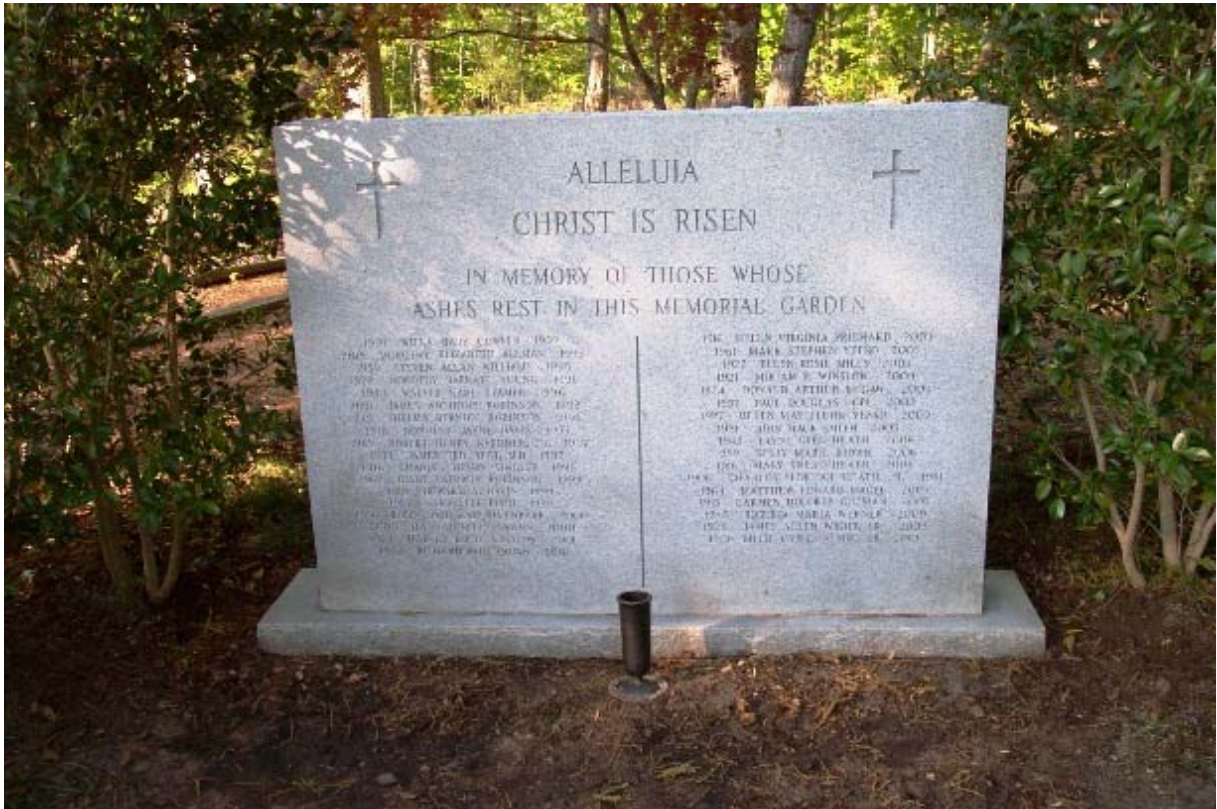
Wayne cleans the marker with muriatic acid (hydrochloric acid). This will open up the "pores" in the stone and

allow the water trapped in the stone to dry out.



The marker the next day, after it has started to dry out. The stain has faded considerably, and will continue to fade. The base is clearly visible now, after having been below ground for several years. Mondo grass will be

planted around the base.



The marker on May 8, 2010.
Click the image below for a more detailed image. Zoom in to read engraving.



Last Updated (Saturday, 08 May 2010)

Close Window