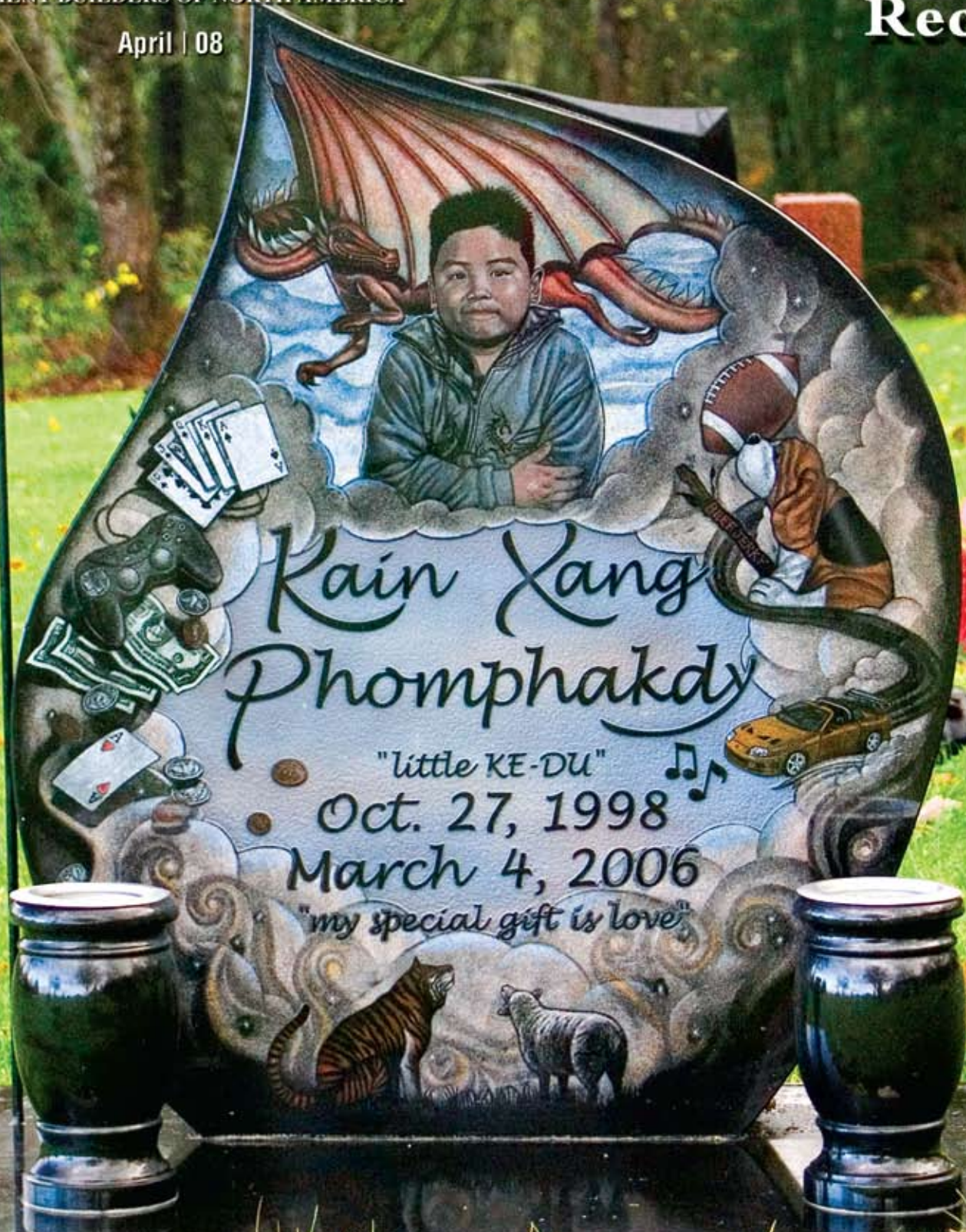


MB news

MONUMENT BUILDERS OF NORTH AMERICA

April | 08

MBNA Aspire Awards & Convention Recap



Kain Lang
Phomphakdy

"little KE-DU"
Oct. 27, 1998
March 4, 2006

"my special gift is love"

Industry News

Laser Users Seminar 2008

As discussions of laser beams and Gaussian blurs filled the meeting room, one might think you were in a sci-fi movie. But instead you were instead attending the second annual Laser Users Seminar at Dakota Monument Company in Fargo, North Dakota on February 11 and 12, 2008.

Northwest Monument Builders Association co-sponsored the seminar, making the event free to its members, though attendees covered their own travel, lodging and expenses. A total of 14 representatives from several monument companies attended, once again making the seminar a success.

During the seminar, Scott Luken of Luken Memorials in Yankton, South Dakota, discussed basic laser maintenance as well as showed various techniques on editing photographs for lasering by using Photo Impact. Anita Montag of Monumental Sales in St. Cloud, Minnesota, gave valuable pointers on the use of the Adobe Photoshop program.

The group discussed techniques for creating designs incorporating multiple images and also shared website locations for resource materials. The topic of colorized laser etchings was also discussed, which led to colorizing a laser-sketched valentine.



The 2009 third annual seminar will be held again at Dakota Monument Company on February 9 and 10. Anyone who owns or operates a laser etching system is invited to attend.



To make your reservation, or for more information, contact Vicky Dyrdaahl at Dakota Monument by phoning 701-237-4343. **MB**

Oregon Memorial Receives KIP Award

Oregon Memorials in Hillsboro, Oregon, has received an honorable mention in the International Cemetery, Cremation and Funeral Association's 2007 KIP (Keeping It Personal) Awards. The award recognizes the best in personalization in the cemetery, funeral service and cremation profession.

Oregon Memorials Marketing Director Lee Nielsen was honored in the Innovative Personalized Product category for the firm's highly personalized memorial for a young boy. Judges were impressed with the creativity and compassion displayed by Oregon Memorials.

As a wholesale only company, Oregon Memorials rarely works with grieving families.

However, on this specific occasion, the firm was called on to extend its personal services to the bereaved parents of young Kain Phomphakdy to personalize a memorial for the deceased child.

Working closely with the parents and internationally acclaimed artist Hibiki Miyazaki, Oregon Memorials produced a teardrop-shaped memorial with a custom illustration memorializing Phomphakdy with all the toys and things he held dear including racing cars, a tiger and a dragon. Lettering on the back — a compilation of notes from the boy's classmates — required extensive detail touches. **MB**



Members In The News

Sympathy and Regrets

Sylvia Davidson Rouleau, long-time MBNA member, died Wednesday, February 6, 2008, at the Cleveland Clinic in Weston, Florida. She is interred at the Rouleau Family Mausoleum at Hope Cemetery in Barre, Vermont.

Born in Burlington, Vermont, on June 7, 1932, she married her high school sweetheart and best friend, Bertrand D. Rouleau, Sr. With his brothers and father, they ran the Rouleau Granite Company for many years.

Best Wishes

All of our best wishes go to Tom Robinson, Executive Vice President for Elberton Granite Association, who is recovering from a stroke he suffered recently.

Well wishes can be sent to his attention at EGA headquarters:

Elberton Granite Association, Inc.
One Granite Plaza
P.O. Box 640
Elberton, Georgia 30635