

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Local Interest

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NEWS RELEASE

LOCAL MONUMENT COMPANY'S AWARD WINNING DESIGNS HELP FAMILIES HONOR THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE

Symbolizing family heritage in memorial art is The Johns-Carabelli Company's tradition. Designing a lasting tribute in creative memorial art takes great skill and years of experience. Monica Johns, CM, AICA, Vice President of The Johns-Carabelli Company, Mayfair Memorials Inc., in South Euclid was recognized for her talents of capturing families' ideas and turning them into meaningful works of memorial art. The true significance of a memorial is not to show that someone died, but to show that someone lived and to commemorate a life.

The American Institute of Commemorative Art (AICA) an international monument association honored Monica Johns with the "Eugene H. Faehnle, FAICA Award" which is the highest award achievable for memorial designers. The award was originated by AICA in memory of the country's leading memorial designers. This is an annual award which is bestowed on one individual in recognition of excellence for creative memorial art. A panel of

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top memorial designers in the U.S. and Canada judge the competition and select the best overall design based on creative memorialization and how it truly reflects the life which it represents. The Johns-Carabelli Company has received many awards for design during its 131 year history, this is the highest recognition received for creative work.

Three of The Johns-Carabelli Company's designs were selected by the panel for the final round of judging. The Ames family monument received third place for family-estate style monuments. The Mickles monument received second place for companion style monuments. The Fimiani monument received first place in family-estate monuments and then went on to win the overall best design award; The "Eugene H. Faehnle, FAICA Award" for 2010.

The American Institute of Commemorative Art was founded in 1951. Its first meeting was held in Cleveland Ohio. Membership is limited to 60 designated individuals from North America recognized as outstanding memorial designers. Membership is by invitation only and Monica Johns is the only designated member of AICA in the Greater Cleveland area.

The award winning monument design captures true symbolism and meaning for the Fimiani family. After losing their two year old daughter, Hope, to her battle with Leukemia, the Fimianis wanted to do something beautiful to remember her. They wanted something unique and it had to include some type of sculpture incorporating an angel. The Johns-Carabelli

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Company recommended looking at bronze pieces, but nothing was quite right. Monica Johns then recommended commissioning a local bronze artist, (Ronald Dewey), to help develop what they were looking to create. Every piece of the bronze was created with meaning and purpose. Once the sculpture concept was decided, the granite for the monument had to be designed to capture the other elements the Fimianis wanted to illustrate. Having a family heritage of stone masons, and working with granite himself, Anthony Fimiani wanted to capture the strength, textures and colors that are so beautiful in natural stone. All of these elements are captured in the granite pedestals that give the bronze sculpture its majestic appearance. Also, the granite bench was added because the family goes to the cemetery often to visit and reflect. It too displays the rustic natural stone all the way to the polished finished granite; each piece complimenting each other for a true piece of art.

The Johns-Carabelli Company was honored to partner with everyone involved in creating such a beautiful tribute. The Johns family is proud of the old world craftsmanship and artistry that they still provide with every memorial they create.

The Fimiani family along with the Sparkman family (another family who lost a child to cancer at the same time) have established a foundation in memory of Hope and Michael to help raise money for The Cleveland Clinic Children's Hospital for research in pediatric blood cancers. More information on this foundation can be found at www.asparkofhope.com.

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