Backyard Memorial

A memorial is a lasting reminder of someone or something important from the past. Most people think of something like the Lincoln Memorial when they hear the word. But memorials do not have to be for national heroes or events only.

For example, my friend has a pear tree in his backyard. My friend planted the tree in memory of his father. The pears get ripe in the summer. My friend gives the pears to neighbors on the street. Each time we eat one of those pears, we think fondly of his father. The pear tree is his father’s memorial.

In another neighbor’s kitchen sits a photograph of her mother. Two candles stand in front of her mother’s picture. My neighbor lights these candles every evening. The photo and the candles are a miniature memorial.

In my backyard is a small stone painted white. Underneath lies my old pet hamster. Each time I see the stone, I think of Tootsie and what a good companion she was. Though it is a memorial to a hamster, it is still a memorial. Whatever makes you stop and remember can be called a memorial.

1. What is a memorial?
2. Why aren’t memorials just for national heroes?