

## Gone but never forgotten

Memories have a bad reputation of inevitably being forgotten as they dissolve into fuzzy moments in time. As humans, it is only natural that we forget old memories in order to make space for the new, so perhaps it is true that some memories will be lost to individuals as time passes. However, when it comes to the memories of loved ones who have passed on, we as a community collectively agree to grip on to those memories of people lost. Humans' immense attachment to people and their memories are shown through the words we engrave and the memorials we create to visit in their honor. A perfect representation of this sentiment is the mantra BOSTON STRONG, which sprang into being as a reaction to the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013. It is plastered throughout the city, from random graffiti on dirty concrete walls to strings tied on the cages of the Boston common's baseball field, as depicted in the picture below. Humans' ability to capture history through words allows for stories and events to be forever snapshotted and frozen in time, as people are presented with a constant reminder of the past that forces them to understand and remember where mantras such as this one stem from. This attitude is also prevalent through our tradition of burying our loved ones in areas that we can then go visit. Every gravestone memorializes a unique story that is not readily apparent, but is revealed through the stories passed on by their loved ones. The graveyard in this photo specifically is where Paul Revere was buried allowing future generations to come to visit and though they have not interacted with many of the dead specifically, they are presented with the opportunity to be influenced by their memory. These two photographs differ in the sense that one is a mantra people have continuously used through spoken word and writing to evoke memories while the other is a physical location to which people return to elicit memories. However, the overarching truth present in both photographs is that memories will always prevail as they are immortalized in these physical attributes that humans have created, resulting in memories that never truly fade away.

\*Photos by Sikha Sahu

