CASE STUDY

Cleaning the Gus Grissom Memorial Monument

Objective: Clean grime from the limestone monument

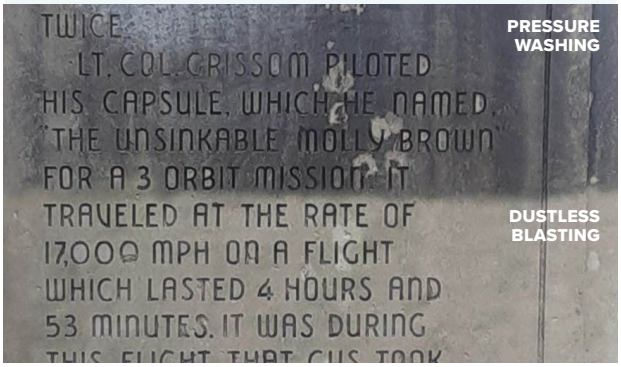
Location: Mitchell, Indiana

In Mitchell, Indiana, you'll find a 50 foot tall limestone depiction of a Mercury rocket. This monument serves as a **memorial for Gus Grissom**: Mitchell native, Mercury astronaut & **America's second man in space.**

One of our contractors, who is actually Gus Grissom's third cousin, had the opportunity to clean up the monument, which was covered with years of grime.

"They **attempted to use a pressure washer,** but it was chipping the lettering on the monument...**eating away chunks of it.** We used 40/70 media and it was just perfect. Honestly, it was so much faster and it cleaned much better."

— **HEATH GRISSOM,** ALE SURFACING LLC



Technical Details

EQUIPMENT:
DB500 Mobile XL

PRESSURE:
80 PSI

AIR COMPRESSOR:
185 CFM

NOZZLE:
SLV-6

BLASTING TYPE:
Wet blasting

SURFACE AREA:
50 ft tall monument

ABRASIVE:
20 bags of 40/70 crushed glass

TIME:
2 days, including cleanup and setup

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Handling Soft Substrates

Limestone is a porous, delicate substrate that can be damaged by other methods. The city first attempted to clean the monument with pressure washing, which chipped away the soft stone and damaged the lettering.

On the other hand, Dustless Blasting® is ideal for washing away grime without damage. The pressure, standoff distance, and choice of abrasive can be customized for your particular project.

www.tmnews.com

Time

JULY 29, 2020

Monumental cleaning job honoring late astronaut

By Miles Flynn
Times-Mail

MITCHELL — Work by ALE Surfacing is bringing some sparkle back to the Gus Grissom Memorial outside Mitchell City Hall, and a family connection makes the job even more meaningful.

Heath Grissom, who manages the Orleans-based business for its namesake and his mother, Anna Lisa Easterday, explained he's a third cousin to Virgil "Gus" Grissom.

The Mitchell native and astronaut perished, along with his two crewmates, in an Apollo program training accident in 1967.

"He was quite a man," Heath said in a telephone interview with the Times-Mail.

"He added he's deeply honored to be doing the work, especially at a time when so many monuments in the United States seem to be under attack.

"Mitchell is proud of their monuments," he commented.

Heath said the company has been in business about a year and utilizes a unique dustless blaster he first came enamored with when he saw one being on the television show "Monkey Garage."

"It's a cool machine," members think

Containment & Cleanup

This contractor chose wet blasting to minimize containment, because of its proximity to a building. Cleanup was easy too: the media was simply collected on plastic sheets on the ground. City officials were impressed by his machine, and the mayor even came to see the process.

Pricing Breakdown

TOTAL TIME (including setup and cleanup)	**16 HR**
CHARGED TO CUSTOMER	**$4,000**
20 BAGS OF MEDIA (40/70 crushed glass)	**$200**
18 GALLONS OF DIESEL (based on average consumption rate and average fuel prices as of 2020)	**$36**
TOTAL PROFIT	**$3,764**