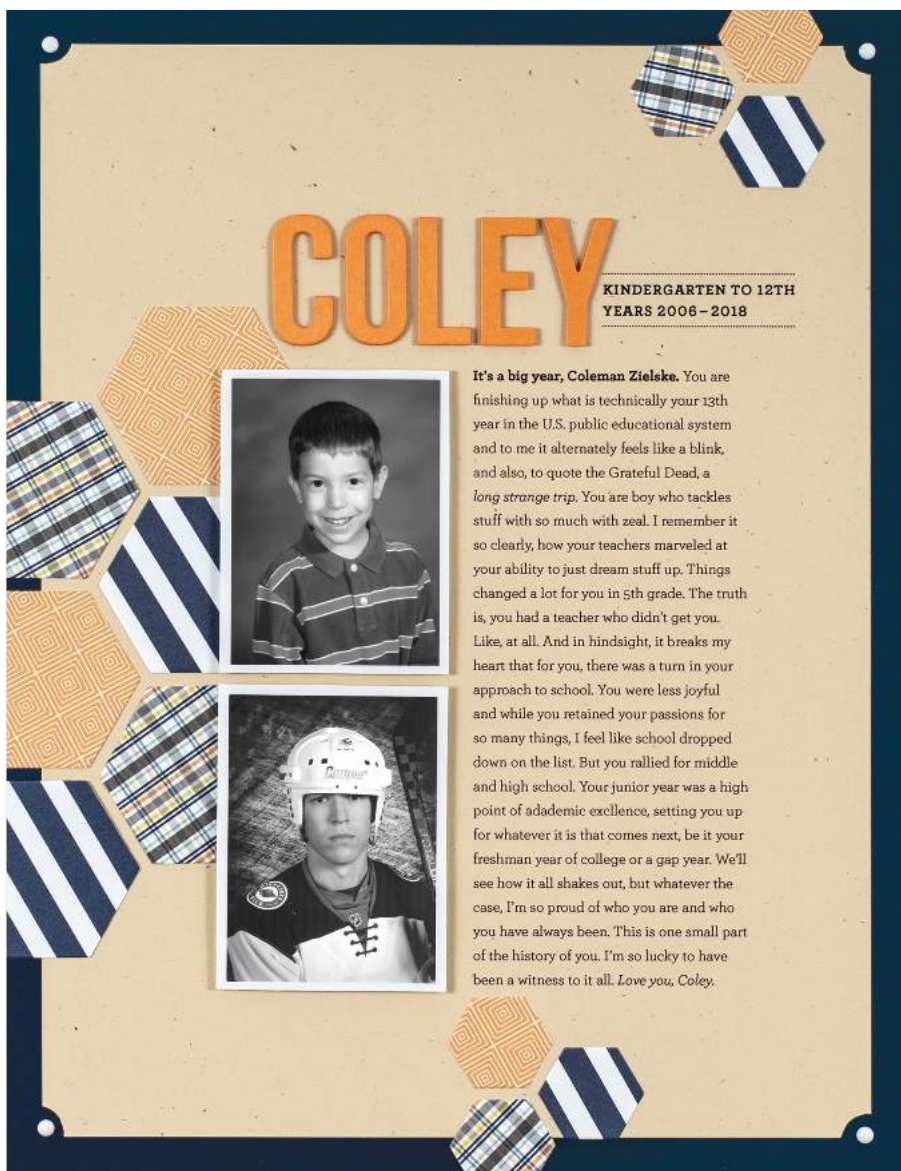


# design your story

Mark major milestones with heartfelt memory keeping.

BY CATHY ZIELSKE

Many of us started scrapbooking to document the big stories in life, and while I adore the everyday life sort of pages, I also love to bring some heart (and great design!) to those monumental life events. While the facts of your milestone events are important, don't forget to also include the feelings that surround them.



## layout 1

### OH, HOW TIME FLIES

My son just graduated from high school this year. I knew I needed to take photos from each end of his educational journey and combine them on a layout.

**STORY TIP: Get personal.** If journaling is a challenge for you, try focusing on your subject and let your heart do the talking. You don't have to be overly sentimental. Talk to your subject as you write. Be honest and capture both facts and feelings.

**DESIGN TIP: Repeat your embellishments.** I've created three different clusters of patterned paper, two small and one large, to help lead the eye around the page. This is called a visual triangle, and it adds energy and connection to the layout.

## coley

**supplies** CARDSTOCK: Gina K. Designs, Neenah; PATTERNED PAPER: Pink & Main; ENAMEL DOTS: Close To My Heart; DIES: CZ Design for Simon Says Stamp, Pink & Main; CORNER PUNCH: We R Memory Keepers; FONT: Archer; ADHESIVE: Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L, Stick It, Therm O Web

**STORY TIP: Have some fun!** When my son asked if he could wear whatever he wanted for his senior picture, of course I agreed. It's his high school experience, after all. The resulting photo? A priceless slice of his quirky personality. I love it!



Download Cathy's years cut file to use on your next milestone page. Find it on our website here: [scrapbookandcards.com/bonus-content](http://scrapbookandcards.com/bonus-content)

## layout 2

### WEDDED BLISS

**Anniversaries are another type of milestone event.**

But don't feel you have to wait for the more traditionally celebrated ones. I think any anniversary is a milestone to be celebrated.

My husband and I have been together for more than half of my life now. That is a milestone! I couldn't find any good current photos of the two of us, so when I came across this silly selfie on my iPhone, I knew it was the perfect photo for the story.

**STORY TIP: Keep it short and sweet.** You don't need to write a lot to have a page with heart. I opt for sharing facts, a few feelings, and maybe even a bit of humour. That's my recipe for meaningful journaling.

### 27 years

**supplies** CARDSTOCK: Gina K. Designs; PATTERNED PAPER: Studio Calico; ENAMEL DOTS: Close To My Heart; DIES: CZ Design for Simon Says Stamp, Lawn Fawn, Sizzix; FONT: Archer; ADHESIVE: Gina K. Designs, Scrapbook Adhesives by 3L, Therm O Web

### QUICK TIP:

#### Easy notched banners

I love the look of ribbon-style banners but often struggle with hand-trimming the notches. My quick tip? Use any nesting square or rectangle die to create perfectly even banner points. Line up the corner of your die at the base of your paper, and run it through your manual die cutting machine.



I have been married to Dan for over half my life beginning this year. I never thought that it would be any other way. The idea of not being with him never crossed my mind, at least not until therapy. And that is *mostly* a joke. It's also real life. We have worked hard on our marriage and we have more work to do. But he still makes me laugh and that is something I will never take for granted. We are most definitely in this for the long haul.

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**DESIGN TIP: Always look for embellishment styles to repeat.** I repeated the two layered ribbon stacks, which adds visual connection to the design but the large and small sizes also add some design contrast.

See more of Cathy's pages, cards, and stories at [cathyzielske.com](http://cathyzielske.com)