

El Dorado County Veterans Monument Policy

Criteria for Approving Memorials, Maintenance and Oversight

The El Dorado County Veterans Monument (Veterans Monument) honors and remembers those who served the cause of freedom ... our nation's veterans. No other purpose shall be allowed on the grounds of the Veterans Monument.

Types of recognition:

1. Veterans are recognized on memorials located within the Veterans Monument. These include memorial bricks, stones, benches, plaques and statuary. Criteria for these memorials follow.
2. Civilians are recognized on bricks, stones, and benches, located at the west entrance to the Veterans west entrance to the Veterans Monument.

Eligibility:

To be eligible to be memorialized at the Veterans Monument, a veteran must have:

1. Served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces, including American forces constituted prior to the American Revolution (receiving either a General or Honorable discharge).
2. Be living or dead.
3. Have resided in El Dorado County or be related by blood or friendship to a resident of El Dorado County.

Memorials that exaggerate a service member's rank, war periods, warfare specialties or claim an unawarded Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Coast Guard Cross, Space Force Cross (should one be established), Silver Star or Purple Heart shall be denied if an application or removed if an existing memorial.

Applications for memorials should include:

1. Name of veteran (Required)
2. Rank of veteran at discharge and/or retirement
3. Type of discharge
4. Branch of veteran's service (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, Space Force)
5. Years of Service (e.g., '65 - '96)
6. Wars (e.g., WWII, Korea, Cold War, Vietnam, Gulf, Terror, Afghanistan, Iraq, etc.)
7. Medals (These medals require confirmation by a DD-214 or citation: Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Coast Guard Cross, and Silver Star.)
8. A dated signature from the applicant certifying that the above information is true.
9. Email address and phone number of the applicant.

Applications may be submitted and paid online at the eldoradocountyveterans.org or in person at the Pool Place on Missouri Flat Road, Placerville, California.

No Vet Forgotten

Memorials to veterans who are determined to be destitute or deserving may be paid for from County funds allocated or donations given to the El Dorado County Veterans Alliance (Veterans Alliance).

Destitute veterans are those lacking the financial resources to pay for a memorial, such as a deceased homeless vet.

Deserving veterans are those whose deeds were of such renown that they are considered to be one of El Dorado County's heroes.

Criteria for Memorials:

1. Memorial Brick - An engraved brick, installed at the Veterans Monument along the Walk of Honor. General discharge or better applies. Each memorializes an individual veteran, as reviewed and approved by the Veterans Alliance. Capacity: three lines at 14 characters per line (including spaces). Available for purchase by veterans, their families and/or friends. Fee applies.
2. Memorial Stone - An engraved granite stone, installed at the Veterans Monument along the Walk of Honor. Honorable discharge only. Capacity: five lines at 14 characters per line (including spaces). Each memorializes an individual veteran or unit, as reviewed and approved by the Veterans Alliance. Available for purchase by veterans, their families and/or friends. Fee applies.
3. Memorial Bench - An engraved granite bench. Can include ceramic, porcelain, metal or glass inserts. Requires review and approval by the Veterans Alliance with advice and consent of the El Dorado County Veterans Affairs Commission. Now limited to war periods, units with an El Dorado County connection (e.g., USS Tahoe, local national guard unit) or recipient of a Medal of Valor*. Not available for public purchase.
4. Memorial Plaque - A plaque installed on the Veterans Monument Honor Wall or elsewhere on the Veterans Monument grounds. Requires review and approval by the Veterans Alliance with advice and consent of the El Dorado County Veterans Affairs Commission. Limited to the recipient of a Medal of Valor* or a veteran significantly involved in or with an action, battle, war period or unit distinguished by its events, deeds, courage and/or significance to El Dorado County. Not available for public purchase.
5. Memorial Statuary - Statuary and other significant monuments installed on the Veterans Monument grounds. Requires review and approval by the Veterans Alliance with advice and consent of the El Dorado County Veterans Affairs Commission. Not available for public purchase.

Maintenance and Improvements:

The County shall be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Veterans Monument, including memorials.

The County, through its Facilities Department, shall notify the Veterans Alliance of any proposed changes in the design, configuration, or landscaping to the Veterans Monument, and the Veterans Alliance shall notify the Facilities Department of its plans for improvements, installations and ceremonies. Significant modifications to the Veterans Memorial shall not proceed without the expressed approval of the Veterans Alliance and the Veterans Affairs Commission. The location of memorials on Veterans Monument grounds shall be determined by the Veterans Alliance in consultation with the Facilities Department oversight.

The Veterans Monument is governed by El Dorado County Ordinance #4743. The Veterans Alliance is designated, through an agreement with the County, to be the sole organization to plan and conduct ceremonies, approve memorials and recommend improvements to the Veterans Monument. Further, it advises the County on the condition of the Veterans Monument's memorials, landscaping, hardscape, lighting and safety. The Veterans Alliance is authorized to approve, fund, place and/or deny any memorial.

Veterans organizations and the public at large are encouraged to communicate suggestions to improve the Veterans Monument to the Veterans Alliance (memorials@eldoradocountyveterans.org).

Concerns, complaints and/or other issues about the Veterans Monument shall be submitted in writing to the El Dorado County Veterans Service Officer (VSO) with a copy to the Veterans Alliance.

Objections to the placement of any memorial will be reviewed by the VSO in consultation with the Veterans Alliance, the objecting party and a member of one of the federally chartered veterans organizations in El Dorado County. Following that review, if a resolution has not been established that satisfies the objecting party, the VSO shall thereafter inform all federally chartered veterans organizations in El Dorado County of the matter and ask for their recommendation as to its disposition. The VSO shall thereafter present all findings to the El Dorado County Veterans Affairs Commission, which shall determine whether the decision/action shall stand as is, be modified or be overturned. Decisions rendered by the Veterans Affairs Commission relative to this policy are final.

*Medals of Valor include: Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, Coast Guard Cross, Space Force Cross (should one be established) and Silver Star.