

El Dorado County Veterans Monument
Criteria for Military Honoraria and Civilian Recognition
April 08, 2025/September 11, 2007

The El Dorado County Veterans Monument is intended to honor the in-service accomplishments of veterans ~~and current members~~ of the armed forces of the United States of America. All eligible veterans will be included proportional to their in-service contributions.

There will be two separate areas of recognition:

1. Recognition of veterans through military honoraria to be located in the Vveterans Monument plaza (hereinafter referred as “plaza”).
2. ~~Recognition of C~~eivilian Contributors ~~to the monument to the left and right of the Monument’s main (west) entrance adjacent to the parking lot.~~
 - a Civilian Contributors are defined as contributors that are non-veterans that purchased bricks and stones as a form of fundraising to construct the monument and to honor volunteers who have provided a significant service to the Veterans Monument. Upon adoption of this ratification, no further integration of civilian recognition is permitted at the Veterans Monument.
 - 2.b No person who is not a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces (refer to definition) may be memorialized in the plaza grounds. A n a r e a to the left and right of the Veterans Monument’s main (west) entrance adjacent to the parking lot is dedicated to recognition of civilian contributors to the monument.

~~As of November 11, 2006, no further integration of veterans honoraria and civilian recognition is permitted in the plaza.~~

~~Any issues that arise regarding inclusion, inscription, or location of honoraria in the monument are to be directed to the Veterans Service Officer, who will convene a committee including one representative commander from each of the federally chartered veterans organization in El Dorado County to hear and settle the issue (hereinafter referred as “committee”). The decision rendered by the committee may be appealed to the Board of Supervisors by submitting a request to the Veterans Services Officer, who will place the appeal on the Board’s agenda. All decisions regarding inclusion, inscription, or location of honoraria in the monument will be made in a manner consistent with this policy.~~

Eligibility for Recognition through Military Honoraria

To be eligible to be memorialized in the Veterans Monument Plaza, a veteran must meet both of the following requirements:

~~Eligibility for inclusion in the plaza is based upon discharge from active military service under other than dishonorable conditions.~~

1. Have served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces, including American forces constituted prior to the American Revolution (receiving either a General or Honorable discharge).

a. For a former servicemember to establish veteran status, generally the individual must have served in active military service and be discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. Reservists and National Guard members may or may not always qualify for veteran status. The County Veterans Service Officer will confirm or deny eligibility based on the current United States Code (U.S.C. Title 38, §101 (2), (10), (21), (24), (26), and (27) defining veterans in their various categories and U.S.C. Title 10 and Title 32 for Reservists and National Guard members).

b. Veterans that are dishonorably discharged from active military service shall not be eligible for inclusion in the Veterans Monument.

and

OPTIONS FOR RESIDENCY LANGUAGE:

Option A: Be a resident or former resident of El Dorado County.

Option B: Be a resident or former resident of El Dorado County or be a veteran who was a friend or family member of a current or former El Dorado County resident.

Option C: [If intent is to remove a connection to El Dorado County, Section A, Eligibility, will be edited to remove the word “both” in the first sentence, and the word “and” at the end of the section.]

~~1. Active service means full-time service, other than active duty for training, as a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Merchant Marines or Coast Guard. Men and women veterans with similar service will be entitled to the same category of honoraria.~~

~~2. Dishonorable and bad conduct discharges issued by general courts martial may bar inclusion in or cause removal from the plaza.~~

~~3.1. Veterans in prison and parolees must contact the El Dorado County Veterans Service Officer or Friends of the Veterans Monument to determine eligibility. Acceptance will not be provided to any veteran wanted for an outstanding felony warrant.~~

~~Those seeking honoraria in the plaza for the first time must complete and submit an application to the El Dorado County Veterans Services Officer that provides the following information:~~

- ~~1. Documentation that demonstrates service dates and type of discharge a copy of their service discharge form, such as DD-214, DD-215, or for WWII veterans, a WD form; or~~
- ~~2. Full name, military service number, and branch and dates of service.~~

~~Application forms are available from the Veterans Service Office, The Friends of the Veterans Monument, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "the Friends"), or the Pool Place on Missouri Flat Road, Placerville, or other such places as may be designated by the Chief Administrative Officer.~~

Types of Military Honoraria

OPTIONS FOR MILITARY HONORARIA LANGUAGE:

Option A: Several types of honoraria are utilized at the Veterans Monument, including bricks, benches and plaques ("honoraria"):

Option B: Several types of honoraria are utilized at the Veterans Monument, including bricks, stones, benches and plaques ("honoraria"):

***Should Option B be selected the following Memorial Stones definition will be added:**

Memorial Stones – To honor an individual veteran or military unit (as defined in U.S.C. Title 38, §101 and U.S.C. Title 10 and Title 32 for Reservists and National Guard members). Each engraved granite stone contains up to five lines and a maximum of 14 characters per line, including spaces.

Memorial Bricks – To honor an individual veteran. Each engraved brick (8x4 inches) contains up to three lines and a maximum of 14 characters per line, including spaces. Bricks are placed along the Walk of Honor.

Benches- To honor a veteran who is the recipient of a Medal of Valor, or to recognize a war period or a military unit (as defined in U.S.C. Title 38, §101 and U.S.C. Title 10 and Title 32 for Reservists and National Guard members). Each engraved with an El Dorado County connection (e.g. USS Tahoe, local National Guard Unit, etc.). Each bench is approximately 6 feet by 16 inches. Benches are custom made and inscription length can vary from 4-12 lines.

Memorial Plaques-Plaques are installed on the Veterans Monument Honor Wall or elsewhere on the Veterans Monument grounds to recognize veteran heroes that meet the following requirements in addition to the eligibility criteria identified above.

OPTIONS FOR DEFINITION OF HERO LANGUAGE:

Option A: A veteran hero is defined as the recipient of the Medal of Honor, or a Military Service Cross (including Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross). (Recipients of these medals are defined per U.S. Department of Defense Manual (DoDM) 1348, Vol. 1, Sec. 3.1, and Vol. 3, Sec. 3.1.)

Option B: A veteran hero is defined as the recipient of a Medal of Valor, which could include the Medal of Honor, Military Service Cross (including Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, or Air Force Cross), or Silver Star Medal. (Recipients of these medals are defined per U.S. Department of Defense Manual (DoDM) 1348, Vol. 1, Sec. 3.1, and Vol. 3, Sec. 3.1 & 3.3.)

~~The following types of military honoraria are available for purchase through The Pool Place at prices in effect at the time of purchase:~~

~~*Special Bronze Plaques honoring events, units, or heroes.* For plaques that honor heroes, the honoree must meet the following conditions:~~

- ~~• Heroes are defined as recipients of the Medals of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross or any person or unit who, while serving with the military, distinguishes himself in action by extraordinary heroism.~~
- ~~• The action must take place under one of three circumstances: while engaged in action against an enemy of the United States; while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or, while serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party.~~
- ~~• The act to be commended must have been performed in the presence of great danger or at great personal risk and must be performed in such a manner as to render the individual highly conspicuous among others of equal grade, rate, experience, or position of responsibility.~~

~~*Benches.* Benches are intended to honor any veteran, unit or action. For benches included in the plaza, the inclusion of civilians in the inscriptions is specifically prohibited.~~

~~*Bricks.* Size 4x8 bricks may be purchased to honor any qualified veterans or current member of the armed forces of the United States. Each brick contains up to three lines and a maximum of 14 characters per line.~~

Application Requirements

Those seeking honoraria in the plaza must complete and submit an application to the El Dorado County Veterans Services Officer that provides the following information:

1. Documentation that demonstrates service dates and type of discharge, including a copy of their service discharge form, such as DD-214, DD-215, or for WWII veterans, a WD form, or full name, military service number, and branch and dates of service.

2. Documentation

ALTERNATIVE LANGUAGE DEPENDENT UPON THE OPTION SELECTED FOR SECTION A, ELIGIBILITY:

Option A: Documentation that demonstrates that the veteran to be honored was a current or former resident of El Dorado County.

Option B: Documentation that demonstrates that the veteran to be honored was a current or former resident of El Dorado County OR documentation that demonstrates current or previous residency for the applicant. Applications honoring family members or friends of a current or former resident will also require a declaration as to said relationship.

3. Proposed inscription for the honoraria. Inscriptions must relate to honoring the named veteran or the service provided by the veteran or his/her unit, including, for example the veteran's name, rank, and years of service; "In memory of;" or appreciation for the veteran's service or particular actions.

Application forms are available from the Veteran Services Office, or other such places as may be designated by the El Dorado County Veterans Service Officer.

Application Approval Process

Upon receipt of an application, the El Dorado County Veterans Service Officer (VSO) shall review for completeness. If the application is complete, the VSO will review to ensure the application meets eligibility and application requirements as outlined in this criteria.

Once the determination to approve or deny the application has been made by the VSO, the VSO will notify in writing the applicant and all federally recognized and chartered veteran organizations in El Dorado County that have requested notification by the VSO (hereinafter referred to as "Veteran Organizations") of applications for honoraria at the Monument of the VSO's application determination ("Notification"). An applicant or Veterans Organization may object to the VSO's determination of the application for a requested honoraria by submitting a written objection to the VSO ("Objection"), which must be received by the VSO no later than 15 business days from the date of the VSO's notification. The Objection must contain rationale for the Objection.

Upon receipt of a timely Objection, the VSO will (1) notify the applicant or the Veteran Organizations, as applicable, of the Objection and (2) issue a decision approving or denying the Objection as to the application ("Decision"). Notice of the Decision shall be made to the applicant and the Veteran Organizations.

OPTIONS FOR APPEAL LANGUAGE:

Option A:

The VSO's Decision shall be final. Notice of the Decision shall be made to the applicant and the Veteran Organizations.

Honoraria should not be installed until after a final decision is made by the VSO, which shall include expiration of time for any Objection.

Option B:

Notice of the Decision shall be made to the applicant and the Veteran Organizations. The VSO's Decision may be appealed no later than 15 business days after the date of the Decision to the Board of Supervisors ("Appeal") by submitting a request to the VSO, who will place the appeal on the Board's agenda.

Honoraria shall not be installed until a final decision is made by the VSO or Board of Supervisors, as applicable, which shall include expiration of time for any Objection or Appeal.

Option C:

Notice of the Decision shall be made to the applicant and the Veteran Organizations. The VSO's Decision may be appealed no later than 15 business days after the date of the Decision to the Board of Supervisors ("Appeal") by submitting a request to the VSO, who will place the appeal on the Board's agenda.

Prior to the Board's consideration of the Appeal, the VSO will place the Appeal on the agenda of the Veteran Affairs Commission (VAC). The VAC will review the Appeal and make a recommendation to the Board.

Honoraria shall not be installed until a final decision is made by the VSO or Board of Supervisors, as applicable, which shall include expiration of time for any Objection or Appeal.

Modification and Maintenance of the Monument

The County shall be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Monument plazae, including installation of any honorariabrieks, plaques and the like that are provided by the Friends.

The County, through the General Services Department Facilities Division, will notify the Veteran Organizations, including the Veterans Alliance, and the VSO~~Friends and the committee~~ in writing of any ~~intended or~~ proposed changes in the design, configuration, or landscaping of the monument. The Veteran Organizations~~Friends~~ will have the opportunity to discuss any such changes with representatives of the Facilities Division-General Services Department. Private citizens, civic organizations, and military/veterans' organizations are encouraged to communicate with the County, Veteran Organizations, and the VSO~~and the Friends~~ regarding proposed improvements and additions to the monument that are consistent with this policy.

Any modifications must be consistent with the original purpose of the monument, which is to honor veterans.

The Veterans Alliance~~Friends~~ will continue to purchase materials for the M~~m~~onument, such as bricks, stones~~tiles~~, plaques, and benches. The Facilities Division~~General Services Department~~ is responsible for the installation of the materials within the monument.