

## HISTORY OF THE EL DORADO COUNTY VETERANS MONUMENT

THE EL DORADO COUNTY VETERANS MONUMENT  
WAS FIRST ENVISIONED BY A UNITED STATES  
MARINE, RICHARD L. BROWN, DURING THE  
VIETNAM WAR. BROWN RECEIVED THE NAVY  
CROSS FOR HIS COURAGE AND TRADITIONS  
OF THE UNITED STATES. BROWN WAS 3RD  
NAVAL BATTALION, 3RD BATTALION, 3RD  
WELL-KNOWN FOR HIS COURAGE AND TRADITIONS  
BATTALION, 3RD BATTALION, 3RD  
NUMEROUS TIMES FOR HIS COURAGE AND TRADITIONS  
SPIRIT. BROWN WAS 3RD BATTALION, 3RD  
FELLOW BATTALION, 3RD BATTALION, 3RD  
THEIR DEDICATION AND TRADITIONS AND  
SACRIFICED FOR THE BATTALION AND TRADITIONS  
ARMED FOR THE BATTALION AND TRADITIONS.

DEDICATED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2006

### El Dorado County Veterans Monument Criteria For Military Honoraria

Options and Recommendations  
March 13, 2025





# Goals of the Meeting:

- 1) To give background information and an overview of public input received about the Veterans Monument Criteria for Military Honoraria and Civilian Recognition.
- 2) To present options for changes to the Monument Criteria.
- 3) To record the Veteran Affairs Commission's votes regarding those options, in preparation for the April 8, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting agenda item about the Criteria.



# Background:

- On July 27, 2021, the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors heard an appeal regarding the placement of a bronze plaque on the Veterans Monument Honor Wall for Captain Paul Jacobs. During that meeting, the Board directed HHSA to facilitate a process for veteran stakeholders to work through revisions to the Monument Criteria.



# Background:

- HHSA coordinated a Public Meeting in July 2022 to gather input from veteran stakeholder groups and members of the public.
- HHSA facilitated a series of meetings between October 2022 and March 2023, to bring representatives of stakeholder groups together to discuss and work through recommended changes to the Monument Criteria. However, the stakeholders did not come to consensus, and one of the stakeholders withdrew from the process.



# Background:

- HHSA held a Public Meeting in June 2024 to receive input from veteran stakeholders and members of the public on proposed updates to the Monument Criteria.
- HHSA met with representatives of stakeholder groups in December of 2024 to receive further input.
- At the January 14, 2025, Board of Supervisors meeting, HHSA presented proposed updates to the Monument Criteria. The Board directed staff to return to the Board within 90 days to further engage stakeholders and the public, and to present options for proposed updates to the Criteria.



# Background:

- HHSA held a Public Meeting on January 30, 2025, to again receive input from veteran stakeholders and members of the public about the Monument and proposed updates to the Monument Criteria.
- HHSA also gathered input from stakeholders and the public via a public survey from January 20 to February 5, 2025. Of the 33 respondents to the survey, 90% stated that they were military veterans, and 93% said they were El Dorado County residents.



# Background:

Based on the feedback received to date, HHSA has identified several areas of the Monument Criteria where disagreement has focused, and where options are presented:

1. Eligibility for inclusion in the Monument
2. Types of Military Honoraria
3. Criteria for Plaques on the Monument's Honor Wall
4. Application Requirements
5. The Appeal Process for Applications

## Eligibility for Inclusion in the Veterans Monument

*Disagreement has focused on whether the El Dorado County Monument should include all military veterans from the U.S., just El Dorado County residents, or veterans who are residents as well as veterans who are friends or family of an El Dorado County resident. 57% of those completing our most recent survey stated that they would prefer that only veterans from El Dorado County be recognized at the Monument.*

### **Options for the Monument Criteria –**

**To be eligible for inclusion at the Monument, a Veteran must:**

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

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

**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.]





## Types of Military Honoraria

*Based on feedback provided at public meetings and directly to the Veteran Services office, the use of memorial stones at the Monument has been questioned. Some have noted that memorial stones were never part of the original Criteria for the Monument but are currently being installed at the Monument.*

### Options for the Monument Criteria – (Summarized)

**A:** Several types of honoraria are utilized at the Veterans Monument, including memorial bricks, benches and plaques (“honoraria”).

**B:** Several types of honoraria are utilized at the Veterans Monument, including memorial bricks, stones, benches and plaques (“honoraria”).





## Criteria for Memorial Plaques on Monument's Honor Wall

*Disagreement has focused on the Monument's Honor Wall, and placement of memorial plaques there to recognize veteran "heroes." 57% of those completing our most recent survey preferred the language in the current Criteria related to the definition of "hero." However, in previous public meetings, and on the survey, it was suggested that the definition of "hero" be broadened.*

### Options for the Monument Criteria – (Summarized)

The definition of a "hero," who is eligible to be recognized on the Monument's Honor Wall, is:

**A:** The recipient of a Medal of Honor, or a Military Service Cross (including Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross or Air Force Cross).

**B:** The recipient of a Medal of Valor, which could include the Medal of Honor, Military Service Cross or Silver Star Medal.





## Application Requirements

*When applying for the placement of honoraria at the Monument, documentation is required. The options shown below correlate with residency of the veteran to be honored.*

### **Alternative Language Dependent Upon the Options Selected for Section A, Eligibility –**

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

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

**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.





## Appeal Process for Honoraria Applications

*Disagreement has focused on situations where an application for honoraria is deemed ineligible (and therefore denied), or a veteran stakeholder group or others have expressed concern regarding that application. 72% of those completing our most recent survey stated that they support having the Veteran Affairs Commission be included in the review of application appeals and provide a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors when an appeal is requested.*

### **Options for the Monument Criteria (Summarized) –**

**If an appeal is requested related to the Veterans Service Officer's (VSO) decision about an application:**

**A:** The VSO's Decision shall be final.

**B:** The VSO's will place the appeal on the Board of Supervisors agenda.

**C:** The VSO will place the appeal on the Board of Supervisors 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.



The background of the slide is a dark blue field filled with white, five-pointed stars, similar to the European Union flag. A large, white, semi-transparent circle is centered on the slide, containing the text.

# **Questions & Comments**