

El Dorado County Veterans Monument Criteria for Military Honoraria and Civilian Recognition

April 8, 2025

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.

There will be two separate areas of recognition:

1. Recognition of veterans through military honoraria to be located within the Veterans Monument Plaza (hereinafter referred to as "plaza").
2. Civilian Contributors
 - 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.
 - b) No person who is not a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces (refer to definition) may be memorialized in the plaza grounds. The monument and to honor volunteers who have provided a significant service to the Veterans Monument. An area to the left and right of the Veterans Monument's main (west) entrance adjacent to the parking lot shall be dedicated to recognition of civilian contributors to the monument.

Eligibility for Recognition through Military Honoraria

To be eligible to be memorialized in the Veterans Monument Plaza, a veteran must:

1. Have served honorably in the U.S. Armed Forces, including American forces constituted prior to the American Revolution (receiving an Honorable or General discharge).
 - a. For a former service member to establish veteran status, 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 El Dorado County Veterans Service Officer (VSO) will confirm or deny eligibility based on 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 who are dishonorably discharged from active military service are not eligible to be memorialized on the grounds.
2. 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.

Types of Military Honoraria

Several types of honoraria may be placed on the grounds of the **Veterans Memorial**, including memorial bricks, stones, benches and plaques (“Honoraria”)

Memorial Bricks - To honor an individual veteran. Each **engraved** brick (8 x 4 inches) contains up to three lines and a maximum of 14 characters per line, including spaces.

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 Benches - To honor a veteran who is the recipient of a Medal of Valor (as defined per U.S. Department of Defense Manual (DoDM) 1348, Vol. 1, Sec. 3.1 and Vol. 3 Sec. 3.1 & 3.3)) or to recognize a war period 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 shall be 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. Plaques installed on the Honor Wall shall honor **veteran heroes that are the recipient of a Medal of Valor (as defined per U.S. Department of Defense Manual (DoDM) 1348, Vol. 1, Sec.3.1 and Vol. 3, Sec. 3.1 & 3.3) or to recognize a war period 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).**ce

Application Requirements

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

1. Documentation, **if available**, that demonstrates service dates and type of discharge, a copy of their service discharge form, such as a DD-214, DD-215, or for WWII veterans, a WD form or full name, military service number and branch and date of service.
2. Proposed inscription for the honorarium, such as: the veteran's full name, rank, branch of service, war periods, military awards and accomplishments (e.g., John Doe, PO3, USN, Afghanistan, Purple Heart, Corpsman); **“in memory of”, or appreciation for the veteran’s service or particular actions.**

Application forms are available from the Veterans Service 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 VSO shall review it 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 the applicant in writing. If denied, an applicant 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 from the applicant, the VSO will notify the El Dorado County Veteran Organizations, as applicable, of the Objection and the reasons for its denial. The Veterans Organizations, may submit recommendations as to approval, denial, or other action, no later than 15 business days from the date of receipt of the applicants objections from the VSO. Once the VSO is in receipt of a decision from the Veterans Organizations, the VSO will place the Appeal and the Veterans Organizations response on the agenda of the Veteran Affairs Commission (VAC). The VAC will review the Appeal and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. The VSO will place the appeal on the Board of Supervisors agenda for final determination.

Notwithstanding revisions to these criteria, honoraria that have already been installed shall not be removed or relocated.

Modification and Maintenance of the Monument

The County shall be responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Monument, including installation of honoraria.

The County, through the Facilities Division, will notify the Veterans Organizations, including the El Dorado County Veterans Alliance (Veterans Alliance) and the VSO in writing of any proposed changes in the design, configuration, or landscaping of the Monument. The Veterans Organizations will have the opportunity to discuss any such changes with representatives of the Facilities Division. Private citizens, civic organizations, and military/veterans organizations are encouraged to communicate with the County, Veterans Organizations and the VSO regarding proposed improvements and additions to the Veterans 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 will continue to purchase materials for the Monument, such as bricks, stones, plaques, and benches.

The Facilities Division is responsible for the installation of the materials within the Monument.

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