

El Dorado County Veterans Monument
Criteria for Military Honoraria and Civilian Recognition
April 8, 2025

The El Dorado County Veterans Monument (Monument) is intended to honor the in-service accomplishments of veterans 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 on the Veterans Monument grounds (hereinafter referred to as “grounds”).
2. Civilian Contributors
 - a) Civilian Contributors are defined as contributors that are non-veterans that have financially contributed to constructing and/or improving the Monument and to honor volunteers who have provided a significant service to the Monument.
 - b) No person who is not a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces (refer to definition) may be memorialized within the grounds. An area to the left and right of the Monument’s main (west) entrance adjacent to the parking lot is reserved for recognition of civilian contributors to the Monument.

A. Eligibility for Recognition through Military Honoraria

To be eligible to be memorialized within the grounds, a veteran must meet these requirements:

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 El Dorado County Veterans Service Officer (VSO) 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

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.

B. Types of Military Honoraria

Several types of honoraria are utilized at the Veterans Monument, including memorial bricks, stones, benches, plaques, and statuary (“honoraria”). Memorial bricks and stones are the only honoraria available for purchase by the public.:

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.

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, 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 (the curved wall behind the flag poles) and elsewhere on the grounds. Plaques installed on the Honor Wall shall honor a war period, military unit (as defined within Memorial Benches) or recipient of a Medal of Valor (including the Medal of Honor, Service Cross, or Silver Star - 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.)

Memorial Statuary - As recommended by the VSO and Veterans Affairs Commission, and approved by the County Board of Supervisors.

C. Application Requirements

Those seeking honoraria within the grounds must complete and submit an application to the El Dorado County Veterans Service Officer (VSO) 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 that demonstrates that the veteran to be honored was a current or former resident of El Dorado County OR 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 first and last name, rank, branch of service, war periods and military awards/accomplishments/specialty (e.g., John Doe, PO3, USN, Afghanistan, Corpsman, Purple Heart).

Application forms are available from the Veteran Services Office, or other such places as may be designated by the VSO.

D. Application Approval Process

Upon receipt of an application, the 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 these criteria.

Once the determination to approve or deny the application has been made by the VSO, the VSO will, in writing, notify the applicant and veterans organizations within El Dorado County that have requested notification by the VSO (hereinafter referred to as "Veterans 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 Veterans 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 Veterans Organizations. The VSO's Decision may be appealed no later than 15 business days after the date of the VSO's 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.

Notwithstanding revisions to the eligibility criteria for recognition through military honoraria, existing honoraria that are already installed shall not be subject to removal.

E. Modification and Maintenance of the Monument

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

The County, through the Facilities Division, will notify Veterans Organizations in writing, including the El Dorado County Veterans Affairs Commission, the El Dorado County Veterans Alliance, and the VSO, of any proposed changes in the design, configuration, or landscaping of the Veterans Monument. 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, the County Veterans Affairs Commission and the VSO regarding proposed improvements and additions to the Monument.

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

The Veterans Alliance will fulfill the details of its contract with the County, as guided by this document, including conducting of ceremonies at, recommending improvements to, and purchasing materials and memorials for the Veterans Monument. The Facilities Division is responsible for the installation of the materials within the Monument.