

El Dorado County Veterans Monument
Criteria for Military Honoraria and Civilian Recognition
July 15, 2025

The El Dorado County Veterans Monument is intended to honor the in-service accomplishments of veterans 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 Veterans Monument plaza (hereinafter referred to as “plaza”).
2. Recognition of 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. An area 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.

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:

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

- c. Be a resident or former resident of El Dorado County or a friend or family member of a current or former El Dorado County resident.

Types of Military Honoraria

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

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 (8x8 inches) contains up to five lines and a maximum of 14 characters per line, including spaces. Stones 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 (up to 18x14 inches) are installed on the Veterans Monument Honor Wall or elsewhere on the Veterans Monument plaza to recognize veteran heroes that meet the following requirements in addition to the eligibility criteria identified above.

A veteran hero is defined as:

1. The recipient of a Medal of Honor, or a Military Service Cross (including Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Air Force Cross, or Coast Guard 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); **OR**
2. Any person or unit who, while serving with the military, distinguishes himself in action by extraordinary heroism by satisfying both of the following criteria:
 - a. The action must take place under one of three circumstances:
 - i. While engaged in action against an enemy of the United States;
 - ii. While engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; or
 - iii. While serving with friendly foreign forces engaged in an armed conflict in which the United States is not a belligerent party.

- b. **AND** 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.

Application Requirements

Those seeking honoraria in the plaza must complete and submit an application to the El Dorado County Veterans Service 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 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.

Applications for Memorial Bricks and Stones:

Once a determination to approve or deny applications for memorial bricks and stones has been made by the VSO, the VSO will notify in writing the applicant, with a copy to 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 the VSO's determination. The VSO's decision shall be final.

Applications for Memorial Plaques or Benches:

Once a determination to approve or deny applications for Memorial Plaques or Benches has been made by the VSO, the VSO will provide written notification to the applicant and the Veteran Organizations of the VSO's determination ("Notification"). An applicant or Veterans

Organization may object to the VSO's determination of the application for 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.

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 Veterans 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.

Modification and Maintenance of the Monument

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

The County, through the Facilities Division, will notify the Veteran Organizations, including the Veterans Alliance, and the VSO in writing of any proposed changes in the design, configuration, or landscaping of the monument. The Veteran 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, Veteran Organizations, and the VSO 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 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.