



County of El Dorado Agenda

Department of Veteran Affairs
130 Placerville Drive, Suite B
Placerville CA 95667
www.edcgov.us/veterans
Telephone: 530-621-5892
Fax: 530-621-2218

Committee of Federally Chartered Veteran Organizations

American Legion, Representative John E. Lingar
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 63, Representative Allen Amaro
Fleet Reserve Association, Representative Charles T. Sweet
Marine Corps League, Representative Victor Mansfield
Military Order of the Purple Heart, Representative Ken Thurman
National Association of County Veterans Service Officers Inc, Representative John Brown
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Representative Leonard "Mac" McAdams

Monday, June 21, 2021 9:00 – 11:00AM

NOTICE OF VIRTUAL MEETING -- ACCESS VIA ZOOM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/98935818521>

By Telephone: 1-669-219-2599

Meeting ID: 989-3581-8521#

This is a Public Hearing of a Committee of Federally Chartered Veteran Organizations in El Dorado County. This hearing is being held per the El Dorado County Veterans Monument Criteria for Honoraria and Civilian Recognition, as approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2007, in conjunction with County Ordinance 9.54.010. This public hearing is being held to determine whether or not the El Dorado Veterans Alliance recommendation to honor Captain Paul Jacobs by placing a plaque on the Wall of Honor complies with the criteria established by the Board of Supervisors in 2007. (Criteria Attached).

If you wish to make a comment during the Public Comment portion of the hearing, press the "raise a hand" button. If you are joining the meeting by phone, press *9 to indicate a desire to make a comment. The meeting coordinator will call you by the last three digits of your phone number when it is your turn to speak. Speakers will be limited to 3 minutes.

PLEASE NOTE: This committee does not have the authority in this hearing to change the established criteria. The decision of the Committee is final unless appealed to the Board of Supervisors in writing within 10 working days.

The Agenda for this Public Hearing is publicly available for viewing in the Veteran Memorial Building lobby at 130 Placerville Drive, Placerville CA 95667 and online
<https://www.edcgov.us/Government/Veterans/Pages/commission.aspx>

I. CALL TO ORDER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. ROLL CALL

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Appeal by Rich Buchanan of the Veterans Alliance Decision Regarding Placement of Plaque on Wall of Honor

Staff requests that the Committee hear the parties' positions regarding whether Captain Jacobs' service record meets the established criteria (attached) for placement of his plaque on the Wall of Honor

IV. ADJOURNMENT

El Dorado County Veterans Monument
Criteria for Military Honoraria and Civilian Recognition
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 veterans monument plaza (hereinafter referred as "plaza").
2. Recognition of civilian contributors to the monument to the left and right of the Monument's main (west) entrance adjacent to the parking lot.

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

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

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. 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 as “the Friends”), ~~at~~ 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

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.

Modification and Maintenance of the Monument

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

The County, through the General Services Department, will notify the Friends and the committee in writing of any ~~intended or~~ proposed changes in the design, configuration, or landscaping of the monument. The Friends will have the opportunity to discuss any such changes with representatives of the General Services Department. Private citizens, civic organizations, and military/veterans organizations are encouraged to communicate with the County 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 Friends will continue to purchase materials for the monument, such as bricks, tiles, plaques, and benches. The General Services Department is responsible for the installation of the materials within the monument.

CHAPTER 9.54. - COUNTY VETERANS MONUMENT

Sec. 9.54.010. - Title.

This chapter shall be known as the County Veterans Monument Ordinance.

(Code 1997, § 9.54.010; Ord. No. 4743, 9-11-2007)

Sec. 9.54.020. - Purpose.

The El Dorado County Veterans Monument ("monument") is intended to honor the veterans of this country and to provide a place for individuals to engage in quiet contemplation, reflection, meditation, and consideration of the veterans and their service. To preserve this purpose, it is intended that the monument not be utilized for any organized activities other than the commemorative ceremonies to be held on Memorial Day and Veterans Day. The monument is to be accessible to the public for the stated purposes, but shall be preserved as a nonpublic forum.

(Code 1997, § 9.54.020; Ord. No. 4743, 9-11-2007)

Sec. 9.54.030. - Authorized events.

- A. *National holidays.* Two organized events shall be held at the monument annually, one a commemorative ceremony on Memorial Day and one a commemorative ceremony on Veterans Day. The ceremonies shall be hosted by The Friends of the Veterans Monument, a State nonprofit mutual benefit corporation, whose specific purpose is to foster cooperation among veterans groups. In hosting said events. The Friends of the Veterans Monument shall act as the umbrella organization for the duly constituted, chartered veterans organizations in the County. No organized events shall be permitted on any other day, including holidays such as Pearl Harbor Day.
1. Expressive activities, including speeches and presentations, conducted in conjunction with such events shall be conducted in a manner consistent with the purpose of the monument. To that end, expressions of political or religious speech shall be prohibited.
 2. To ensure that speeches and presentations do not run afoul of the foregoing prohibitions, all speeches and presentations must be reviewed by the Chief Administrative Officer or his or her designee prior to the subject event. In reviewing such speeches and presentations, the Chief Administrative Officer or his or her designee shall not discriminate on the basis of the speaker's viewpoint.
- B. *Funeral services.* No formal ceremonies or services shall be permitted at the monument. However, while impromptu memorial services or other gatherings may occur, all such services and gatherings must be conducted in a manner consistent with these regulations and the stated

purpose of the monument.

- C. *Reservations.* Except as allowed in Subsection A of this section, neither the monument, nor any part thereof shall be available to be reserved for use by any person, group or entity.

(Code 1997, § 9.54.030; Ord. No. 4743, 9-11-2007)

Sec. 9.54.040. - General use.

- A. *Definitions.* The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this subsection, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Demonstrations includes demonstrations, rallies, picketing, speechmaking, public oratory, marching, holding vigils or religious services, and all other like forms of conduct which involve the communication or expression of views or grievances, engaged in by one or more persons, the conduct of which has the effect, intent or propensity to draw a crowd or onlookers. The term "demonstrations" does not include casual use of the monument by the public which does not have an intent or propensity to attract a crowd or onlookers.

Special events includes celebrations, historical reenactments, exhibitions, parades, fairs, festivals, and similar events, which are not "demonstrations" under the foregoing definition, and which are engaged in by one or more persons, the conduct of which has the effect, intent or propensity to draw a crowd or onlookers. The term "special events" also does not include casual use by the public which does not have an intent or propensity to attract a crowd or onlookers.

Veterans Memorial Monument or monument means the area occupied by the County Veterans Memorial Monument and its associated facilities and pathways, which are bounded by, but do not include, Ray Lawyer Drive and the sidewalks used for general pedestrian circulation within the County government center.

- B. *Demonstrations and special events.*

1. Except as otherwise provided in Section 9.54.030, demonstrations or special events are prohibited at the monument.
2. Should a group or member of the public seek to hold a demonstration or special event at the monument, the Facilities Manager, Chief Administrative Office, shall propose an alternate site to the applicant, if available for the proposed activity.

- C. *Soliciting.* Soliciting or demanding gifts, money, goods, or services at the monument is prohibited. In addition, no person shall display or distribute commercial advertising at the monument.

- D. *Sales.* No sales shall be made and no goods or services shall be exposed for sale at the monument.

- E. *Leafletting.* The sale or free distribution of any literature, leaflet, pamphlet, flyer, handbill, or other similar printed material at the monument is prohibited, except that a program may be distributed if approved by the Chief Administrative Officer or his or her designee and such distribution is a part of a special event authorized by these regulations.

- F. *Displays.* The display of any placards, banners, signs, or similar devices at the monument is prohibited, unless approved by the Chief Administrative Officer or his or her designee and a part of a special event authorized by these regulations.
- G. *Littering.* It shall be unlawful for any person to throw, dump, scatter, discard, place or deposit litter or solid waste in any manner or amount within the monument's boundaries, except in containers or in areas lawfully provided for or permitted for that use.
- H. *Sidewalks.* Nothing herein shall be deemed to inhibit the public's free use of the streets and sidewalks adjacent to the monument, including the sidewalks on Fair Lane and Ray Lawyer Drive and the sidewalks used for general pedestrian circulation within the County government center.
- I. *Bicycles and skateboards.* The riding, operation, or use of bicycles, roller skates, skateboards, in-line skates or other wheeled conveyances is prohibited at the monument, except for wheeled conveyances used by handicapped persons and child carriages.
- J. *Destruction or removal of property.* No person shall willfully destroy, damage, deface, mutilate, remove, or displace any property, including any placards or memorial bricks, at the monument.
- K. *Use of alcohol or drugs.* No person shall be under the influence of alcohol or intoxicating or dangerous drugs at the monument in such a condition that the individual is unable to exercise care for their own safety or the safety of others.
- L. *Audio devices.* No person shall operate any public address system, amplified musical instrument, amplified sound device or other noise-producing device at the monument, except in connection with a permitted special event.
- M. *Noise.* No person at the monument shall yell, utter loud and boisterous language, or make or cause to be made any loud and raucous, unnecessary or unusual noise which by its volume causes discomfort or annoyance to any reasonable person of normal sensitivity.

(Code 1997, § 9.54.040; Ord. No. 4743, 9-11-2007)

Sec. 9.54.050. - Enforcement.

Any person who violates any of these rules and regulations shall, in the discretion of the enforcing authority, be guilty of an infraction or a misdemeanor and, pursuant to Chapter 1.24, may be subject to a fine of not more than \$500.00 and/or imprisonment not to exceed six months.

(Code 1997, § 9.54.050; Ord. No. 4743, 9-11-2007)

May 12, 2021

Richard W. Todd
Veteran Services Program Manager
El Dorado County Health & Human Services Agency
937 Spring Street
Placerville, CA 95667

Subj: Objection to Captain Paul Jacobs bronze plaque

Dear Mr. Todd:

As the founder of the El Dorado County Veterans Monument I object to the planned installation of a bronze plaque on the monument's "Honor Wall" in recognition of Captain Paul Jacobs, USN (Ret.) and his service aboard the USS Kirk (FF-1087) in the last days of the Vietnam War. While Captain Jacob's actions were commendable they do not fulfill the approved criteria for this recognition as sought by the El Dorado County Veteran's Alliance ("EDCVA").

The Monument is governed by County Ordinance 4743 (Code 1997, § 9.54.010; Ord. No. 4743, 9-11-2007). The Ordinance provides that the monument may not be used "for any organized activities other than the commemorative ceremonies to be held on Memorial Day and Veterans Day." Those ceremonies are to be "hosted by The Friends of the Veterans Monument" ("FOVM"). Otherwise, the ordinance does not authorize the FOVM or any other organization to approve or install memorial plaques, or make any changes to the monument.

The Board of Supervisors adopted ordinance 4743, along with amended criteria for "Military Honoraria and Civilian Recognition," on September 11, 2007. (Enclosures 1-2.) The criteria includes that "any issues that arise regarding inclusion, inscription, or location of honoraria in the monument are to be directed to the Veterans Service Officer," and describes the process of hearing and appealing such issues. Therefore, I am submitting this objection to you as the program manager for the County's Veteran Services office.

Bronze Plaque Criteria:

The EDCVA seeks to install a bronze plaque honoring Captain Jacobs as a "national hero who distinguished himself in action" and that his "deeds fulfill the *intent* of the guidance provided for placement of a bronze plaque." (Enclosure 3.)

The approved criteria do not describe *intent*, but conditions that "the honoree *must* meet." (Enclosure 2, page 2.) With no disrespect to Captain Jacobs or his crew, his actions as part of Operation Frequent Wind in 1975 do not meet these conditions.

First, the criteria defines "heros" 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 EDCVA’s description omits any mention of those medals being awarded to Captain Jacobs, and only superficially describes “heroic” actions by the USS Kirk, but not by Captain Jacobs personally or extraordinarily.

Second, “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.”

Multiple sources, including interviews with Captain Jacobs, affirm that the USS Kirk engaged in “humanitarian” actions by recovering helicopters evacuating from Saigon on April 29, 1975, but did not engage in combat, and was not subject to enemy actions. On April 30, 1975, the final day of the Vietnam War, the USS Kirk rendezvoused with remnants of the Vietnamese Navy at Con Son Island, approximately 50 miles offshore, and then escorted those vessels and their evacuees without incident to the Philippines. Again, the USS Kirk engaged no enemy and its operations were entirely humanitarian. Apart from those actions, the USS Kirk only departed San Diego for Vietnam in March, 1975 and was not engaged in armed conflict with any enemy force. Captain Jacobs, as the Commanding Officer of the USS Kirk, did not personally engage any enemy of the United States.

Third, “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.”

Operation Frequent Wind took place in the final two days of the Vietnam War. The USS Kirk was one of 25 U.S. Navy vessels comprising Task Force 76, which were situated approximately 17 miles from the Vung Tau peninsula. The USS Kirk was notable for landing 16 helicopters and pushing 15 of them overboard in order to keep its landing deck clear; in all, 250 people were evacuated from those helicopters and then transferred to other vessels.

Captain Jacobs is credited for making a command decision to land helicopters and care for evacuees, but his was not the only U.S. naval vessel to do so. Nor did he do so under “great danger or at great personal risk.” Pictures show him in short pants, without battle gear, amidst his crew on the flight deck as they unloaded evacuees and pushed helicopters overboard. The ship was not under enemy threat, and he performed his duties the same as other units of Task Force 76. On April 30, 1975 and afterwards, Captain Jacobs tended to evacuees and their humanitarian needs as they led a convoy of Vietnamese vessels to the Philippines without the danger of enemy combat.



Commander Paul Jacobs, USS Kirk (3rd from left)

Recommendation:

Captain Jacobs and the crew of the USS Kirk stood out because they were ordered to Con Son Island and led a convoy of evacuees that totaled approximately 30,000 Vietnamese. Those actions are notable and more suitable for recognition on Veterans Day, when the descendants of those Vietnamese refugees could speak to those actions and their subsequent relocation to the United States. The Asian Heritage Society of San Diego did so in 2017 when it “held ceremonies commemorating the largest humanitarian effort in U.S. naval history.” Another appropriate speaker would be from members of the USS Kirk Association. They can be reached at <https://www.kirk1087.org/>, or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/UssKirkAssociation>.

The monument contains other means to recognize Captain Jacob’s service, but he does not meet the criteria for the placement of a bronze plaque in a place of reserved honor at the veterans monument. Therefore, I recommend the EDCVA’s action to place a plaque honoring Captain Jacobs be immediately denied. The Alliance does not have authority to approve or install a plaque, nor does Captain Jacobs meet the criteria for placement of a bronze plaque honoring him as a hero.

Respectfully,

Richard W. Buchanan, Navy Cross
Past National Commander, Board of Directors, Legion of Valor

Encl: (1) September 11, 2007 Board of Supervisors Agenda
(2) Amended Criteria for Military Honoraria
(3) John Poimiroo email dated May 12, 2021

END CONSENT CALENDAR**NOTICED HEARINGS****DEPARTMENT MATTERS**

29. [07-394](#) Adoption of Ordinance **4743** establishing regulations for the use of the Veterans Memorial Monument; and providing amendments to the Criteria for Military Honoraria and Civilian Recognition. (Introduced 8/28//07, Item 37)

Attachments: [Goldenrod for Veteran's Memorial Monument.pdf](#)
[Ltr rcvd from Sup. Briggs and Ord. 4188.pdf](#)
[Additional information for Veterans Monument.pdf](#)
[070403 Veterans Memorial Monument Management Issues.doc](#)
[070713 Veterans Memorial Monument Update.doc](#)
[Ordinance 4743 8-28-07.pdf](#)
[Board Letter - Veterans Memorial 8-28-07.pdf](#)
[Amended Criteria for Military Honoraria and Civilian Recognition.pdf](#)
[083007 FINAL Veterans Monument Criteria Amendments](#)
[Revised Ordinance 9-4-07](#)
[Phone Message by Jamie Beutler 9-7-07.pdf](#)

This matter was added to the Consent Calendar and adopted.

Yes: 4- Dupray, Baumann, Briggs and Santiago

Absent: 1- Sweeney

30. [07-1310](#) Public Health Department recommending Chairman be authorized to sign Amendment I to Agreement 200-S0811 with El Dorado County Regional Prehospital Emergency Services Operations Authority (JPA) to amend Section V, Article XI - Response Time Standards, Letter C. Maximum Response Times, to provide prehospital Advanced Life Support (ALS) services and dispatch services within County Service Area No. 7.

Attachments: [Blue Sheet](#)
[Amendment I](#)
[WS JPA Contract](#)
[Attachment A, Response Time Comparison.pdf](#)

This matter was added to the Consent Calendar and approved.

Yes: 4- Dupray, Baumann, Briggs and Santiago

Absent: 1- Sweeney

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

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----- Original Message -----

From: John Poimiroo <poimiroo@gmail.com>

To: Richard Todd <richard.todd@edcgov.us>

Cc: Gary Campbell <gacaml@pacbell.net>, Jack Babbitt <jacabbitt@msn.com>, Rich Buchanan <rbuchanan2680@comcast.net>, Ranell Brown <ranell.brown@edcgov.us>, Philip Houseworth <prhouseworth@gmail.com>

Date: 05/12/2021 9:15 AM

Subject: Re: Voice Message From: 5530

The El Dorado County Veterans Alliance, as the County-assigned overseer of the El Dorado County Veterans Monument determines the deeds of CAPT Jacobs fulfill the intent of the guidance provided for placement of a bronze plaque on the Honor Wall, namely that CAPT Paul Jacobs, USN is a national hero who distinguished himself in action.

As the sole US ship facing the entire North Vietnamese military, the USS Kirk, commanded by CAPT Jacobs performed heroically. There was great risk to the ship, its crew, its wards and to CAPT Jacobs personally, as has been dramatically presented in the historical record, the book *The Lucky Few* and in numerous highly acclaimed documentaries.

At the time, Kirk was serving with friendly foreign forces in an armed conflict. The act was performed in the presence of great danger and was performed in such a manner as to render CAPT Jacobs highly conspicuous among those of equal grade and position of responsibility. These are all conditions to be considered when placing a plaque on the Honor Wall.

There is no question in our mind that the plaque is deserved and honors one of El Dorado County's greatest heroes and that it fulfills the intent of both existing and previous guidance on placement of bronze plaques on the Honor Wall.

John Poimiroo, CAPT, USN-Ret
Secretary-Treasurer
(916) 801-1013 M – (916) 933-3414 O



----- Forwarded message -----

From: [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 4:50 PM
Subject: June 21, 2021 Commanders Meeting (CAPT Jacobs issue)
To: Richard.todd@edcgov.us <Richard.todd@edcgov.us>

Richard,
Since i'm not able to take part in the June 21, 2021 Committee meeting [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Could I request that my comments below be handed out
(emailed) or read to those who can attend as representative of their
respective organizations? Also, The Legion of Valor Congressional Charter will
follow.....

Best regards and thank you in advance,

Richard W. Buchanan

Committee Members:

This current debate is not about any of us, in my view. It's about the monument-what it was created for, who created it and why, and how it was intended to remain apart from political whims. Like our founding constitution, it's a pillar of symbolism and dedication that is worth fighting for, so it retains its dignity and honor. Once that is taken away you lose what it exists for.

This push to recognize CAPT Jacobs without discussion, who does not meet the County ordinance #4743 for inclusion on the front wall is elevating personal desires over the monument's eternal dignity and honor. Those standards exist for a reason--we don't give medals to veterans who didn't earn them, and it's not "disgraceful" to say that. If we continue to follow those who are pushing this issue until it can be reviewed by all, then the honor wall means nothing. You might as well put a Rotary Club plaque with its member's names: In my brothers, personal awards he's cited for saving hundreds of lives while doing his duty...exactly the same as Captain Jacobs. Why can't he be on the wall? Or why don't we give everyone the Medal of Honor? We don't give out awards that are not warranted, and this action to place a plaque for Captain Jacobs is in that attempt to circumvent well established, objective criteria without even acknowledging the standards exist.

We have always firmly believe Capt Jacobs should be honored. Several suggestions for fitting tributes to him have been offered without comment that would recognize CAPT Jacobs contributions to Operation Frequent Wind as well as the other Captains and hundreds of sailors, diplomats and airmen involved in the largest humanitarian action undertaken by the US Naval Services in modern times, And a lost opportunity for El

Dorado County Veterans Monument if we don't pursue that course. We believe its a course CAPT Jacobs and his family would approve of .

I don't know if the public will be allowed to speak at this upcoming meeting, but those are things I would say to the people in attendance. I would also say because of the dedication of two El Dorado County veterans, the vision and actions to create a distinguishable memorial, free from politics, where the public can gather to pay their respects (honorably, this debate would not be occurring. There would be no monument and no criteria to maintain its clear purpose.

Richard W. Buchanan NC
Founder, El Dorado County Veterans Monument