



2016 ANNUAL REPORT

FRIENDS OF THE VETERANS MONUMENT

Background

Friends of the Veterans Monument (FVM) (C2966953), a 501.c (3) public benefit organization is authorized by County of El Dorado Ordinance 4743 to conduct Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies at and oversee improvements to the El Dorado County Veterans Monument (360 Fair Lane, Placerville).

FVM is a non-membership organization that also raises funds and conducts programs to help El Dorado County veterans and their families.

When doing so, FVM uses the dba, El Dorado County Veterans Alliance. This name is used to lessen confusion when FVM is raising funds for local veterans causes, as otherwise donors are confused that their gifts would go only to the Veterans Monument.

Activities



Veterans Day and Memorial Day Ceremonies

In 2016, FVM organized and conducted Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies at the Veterans Monument. This involved organizing volunteers to refresh annual flower beds and planters, power wash the monument grounds and secure and set up seating.

Approximately 2,000 people attended the Memorial Day ceremonies and nearly 1,000 attended the Veterans Day

ceremonies.

Speaking on Memorial Day was BGEN Clay Garrison, California Air National Guard and on Veterans Day, El Dorado County Sheriff John D'Agostini. FVM requires that all speakers give apolitical talks that focus on military service, sacrifice and veterans affairs. To that end, expressions of political or religious speech are prohibited by county ordinance.

Online Directory

FVM coordinated a project proposed by Life Scout Ryan Sleeth to develop an online directory of memorials at the Veterans Monument. A \$500 mini grant from the County of El Dorado helped supplement FVM's budget to pay for a \$750 monument stone to be placed at the entrance to the Veterans Monument and unveiled on Memorial Day. Since the online directory has been

created, FVM has received many expressions of appreciation from families and friends of veterans who are now able to find their loved one's memorial brick, stone, plaque or bench.

New Bleachers

For many years, FVM has borrowed portable bleachers from the Boys and Girls Club of Placerville, for use at Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies. Transportation of the benches from their location to the County Government Center has caused additional wear to the benches, which have begun to deteriorate. As such, FVM purchased two, four-row, tilt and roll portable aluminum bleachers, with wide floorboards (for easier walking and use), which were assembled and are stored by the County Facilities Department on County property for use at these ceremonies. FVM plans to purchase an additional two sets of similar bleachers when funds are available.

Additional Benches

FVM purchased four additional granite memorial benches for placement at the Veterans Monument. The benches are stored for future use.

Landscape Plan

Concern about the ragged appearance of landscaping at the Veterans Monument caused FVM to contact the El Dorado County Master Gardeners who performed a review of landscaping at the Veterans Monument and submitted the attached proposal (Attachment A). FVM has met with the El Dorado County Facilities Department to begin gradual implementation of the Master Gardeners' recommendations.

Lighting Plan

Each day and night, many people visit the El Dorado County Veterans Monument. Lighting at the Veterans Monument was not designed to handle the number of nighttime visitors to it and FVM is concerned about the safety and security of both visitors to the monument and the monument (vandalism). It proposes installing additional lighting, to make the Veterans Monument a safer, more secure place for its many visitors and deter vandalism. Four lamp poles are needed to achieve the goal. The VM is currently equipped with proper wiring. It needs four standard-sized concrete footings installed at locations where new poles would be placed. Approximately \$20,000 is needed to purchase poles and install concrete foundations. That amount has been requested through the TOT Mini Grant process.

Serrano Salute to Valor

For the past two years, Serrano Salute to Valor has been FVM'S major fundraising effort.

It is a golf tournament held in late summer at the Serrano Country Club in El Dorado Hills, organized in cooperation with members of the Serrano Country Club for the purpose of benefitting El Dorado County veterans and their families.



This year, special recognition of El Dorado County's military recruiters occurred with presentation of them at opening ceremonies and with award of the new Armed Forces trophy, won by the U.S. Air Force recruiters.

\$73,346.46 in contributions were generated by the tournament and deposited in an account managed by the El Dorado Community Foundation. Of that, \$22,290.21 was expense (golf green fees, food

service, printing, etc.) and a net donation of \$51,056.25 was distributed as follows:

- Folsom Lake College Veterans Success Center (educational aid to veterans)
- Snowline Hospice (end-of-life care for veterans and their families)
- Sierra Law Enforcement Chaplaincy (counseling to veterans and their families in law enforcement)
- FVM (reimbursement for expenses)
- FVM (veterans headstone restoration project)
- El Dorado County Food Bank (No Vet Goes Hungry Program)
- El Dorado County Veterans Coalition
 - Veterans Monument Scholarship Fund
 - SSGT Sky Mote NC USMC Scholarship
- Military Family Support Group (support to veteran families)
- Only Kindness (support to homeless veterans)
- Operation Rebound (athletic support to disabled veterans)



2017 Budget

Memorial Day

Landscape Refresh	\$500
Flags	\$50
Fuel (warbird flyover).....	\$1,600
Printing.....	\$700
Flowers (wreath and carnations)	\$510
Recognition	\$300
Music.....	\$250
Transportation	\$50
Reserve.....	\$40
SUBTOTAL	\$4000

Veterans Day

Landscape Refresh	\$500
Flags	\$50
Fuel (warbird flyover).....	\$1,600
Printing.....	\$700
Flowers (wreath and carnations)	\$510
Plaques (veteran of the year)	\$300
Music.....	\$250
Transportation	\$50
Reserve.....	\$40
SUBTOTAL	\$4000

Capital Fund/Reserves \$5,000

The above account is a set-aside account to fund the following projects.

Future Capital Projects

Brick Memorials Section Renumbering	\$1,000
Veterans in Need Memorial Bricks (annual).....	\$1,000
Bleachers.....	\$4,000
Lighting.....	\$20,000
Landscape Improvements.....	\$5,000
Memorial Benches	\$5,000
Welcome Home Statues	\$50,000

Annual Funding Target.....\$9,000 to \$13,000

Account Balances

El Dorado Community Foundation	
TOT Account (VM Ceremonies and Improvements).....	\$6957.48
Welcome Home Fund	\$501.77
USBank	\$6,484.29
FVM Administration.....	\$500
FVM Accounting.....	\$1,500
2017 Serrano Salute to Valor Projected Expense	\$22,000
2017 Serrano Salute to Valor Projected Income	\$40,000

Submitted by:

Gary Campbell, President
John Poimiroo, Secretary
Megan Buchanan, Treasurer

Friends of the Veterans Monument
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Placerville, CA 95667
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(916) 933-8860

APPENDIX A

From: John Poimiroo <john@poimiroo.com>
Date: June 21, 2016 at 1:21:14 PM PDT
To: Ray Schoenwandt <schoenwandt9@aol.com>
Cc: Joan Poimiroo <jpoimiroo@gmail.com>, Gary Campbell <gacambl@pacbell.net>, Megan Buchanan <megmariebuch@gmail.com>, Rich Buchanan <rbuchanan2680@comcast.net>, Chuck Harrell <Charles.Harrell@edcgov.us>
Subject: El Dorado County Veterans Monument

Ray,

Thank you and the El Dorado County Master Gardeners for agreeing to help us assess how to improve landscaping at the El Dorado County Veterans Monument. See you at the VM on July 15 at 10:30 a.m. for a walk-through assessment.

I've copied Joan (my wife and a practiced gardener who has helped coordinate landscaping touch ups for the last year), Gary Campbell (our President), Megan Buchanan (our Treasurer) and Rich Buchanan (our chairman emeritus - and another practiced gardener who had the landscaping committee assignment prior to Joan and me) who may have additional questions/comments.

Also copied is Charles Harrell, director of facilities for the County whose crew maintains landscaping at the VM.

As requested, here is an initial list of questions:

1. What major faults do you see with current landscaping at the VM?
2. What would you recommend as fixes to these faults?
3. What would you recommend be done to create a more beautiful overall and respectful impression from the landscaping?
4. What can be done to improve the growth and health of hedges bordering the split circle along the main walkway? Should we replace them with something else?
5. What would you suggest be done to improve the overall look of the planter area that is located directly in front of the honor wall (behind flag poles)?
6. What can be done to improve the growth and health of plants in front of the honor wall?
7. What do you recommend be done to improve the growth, vitality and overall impression of ground cover areas to the left and right of the main walkway? The area to the left is particularly spotty and not filling in properly. Suggestions?
8. Regarding annual flowers, we currently replace annuals (urn on walkway and in front of the honor wall) around (before or after - depending on their condition) Memorial Day (last Monday in May) and Veterans Day (Nov. 11). We've used a red white and blue theme. We refresh and fertilize (as needed) between those holidays. Suggestions to improve annual color? This is an area where we could use some assistance. We get a 50% discount from The Home Depot in

Placerville, though selection is limited and condition varies, compared to quality nurseries like Green Acres or local nurseries.

John Poimiroo, Secretary
Friends of the Veterans Monument
(aka El Dorado County Veterans Alliance)
(916) 933-8860

RESPONSE

EL DORADO COUNTY VETERAN'S MONUMENT
LANDSCAPE BEAUTIFICATION RECOMMENDATIONS
EVE KEENER – MASTER GARDENER
JULY 15, 2016

First, let me say that I had not visited the monument before and was charmed by its beauty and tranquility. However, the landscape does need some help, but with some tweaking, will be a true complement to the overall scene. I will address your questions and make recommendations for changes.

1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 8. I will address in my recommendations.

4. The hedges around the split circle are dwarf boxwood (buxus), and are by nature very slow growing. Eventually with correct trimming, they will grow into a low hedge similar to the one at the foot of the main honor wall. To expedite that result, additional shrubs could be planted between the existing ones, which should be shaped as they grow, watered regularly and a balanced fertilizer applied in spring and again in late summer. A mulch of shredded bark should be applied to the soil around them to preserve moisture, cool the roots and deter weed growth.

7. The groundcover to the right and left of the main path is Vinca minor, which is a shade plant so is suffering on the left side which is in full sun. You will notice the right side, which has more shade, is doing better. However, since you cannot provide shade on the left, and for the sake of balance, I recommend replacing both the left and right side with Ajuga reptans, an evergreen groundcover that does well in both sun and shade with adequate water, spreads quickly, is attractive and easycare and will make a pretty transition to the lawn beyond it. It spreads rapidly by runners and when planted on a 6" grid will cover the area in a year. Although it can be aggressive, it is easy to control as the runners are on the surface and are easy to cut off or pull out. It can be purchased in flats of plugs from Home Depot and would I suppose qualify for the 50% discount you are looking for. Plant in the fall, if it is available, or as soon in spring as you can, and before planting, dig 2-3" of compost into the soil after the Vinca is removed. It will bloom in late spring with medium short, blue, spiky flowers, which can be weedwacked or mowed after they are withered to improve appearances. Fertilize in spring and again in late summer.

The Hypericum groundcover closer to the larger area is an excellent, tough, somewhat drought tolerant groundcover – although it looks better with regular water. However, it looks like it has rust, a fungal disease common with this plant, and generally looks very sad. It should be mowed or weedwacked in February and raked out, then fertilized when growth starts in spring. When healthy it has nice, green leaves and pretty yellow flowers in late spring. Be aware, however, it is very aggressive and needs to be controlled or will take over.

Now to the planter at the honor wall. There is no balance to the design, so it does not flow well, and does not enhance the beauty of the wall.

- A. Remove the daylilies. They only bloom for a short period and are straggly for the rest of the year.
- B. Remove the shrubs with the large leaves – they overwhelm the plantings and do not enhance the wall.
- C. The taller tailored evergreens, which I am assuming is another variety of boxwood, are perfect to bracket the sides of the honor wall plaque sections and I suggest should be supplemented so there is one on each side of the smaller honor wall plaque sections.
- D. There is a red rose at the left end of the planter. I recommend adding three more, to implement the red, white and blue theme, one each at either side of the largest plaque wall, and one at the right end of the planter.
- E. Additional agapanthus can be planted to provide the blue color. Perhaps clumps of the “Peter Pan” variety, a miniature with darker blue flowers, could be planted in front of the evergreens to soften the front edge, leaving blocks of space for the annuals.
- F. All the current annuals should be removed when you are ready to revamp the bed, and replaced with the red and white Vinca rosea that you are currently using (making sure the white variety is pure white and does not have a pink center spot). Buy these in 8-packs from Home Depot as soon as they arrive in the nursery in late spring, plant them thickly on a 4-6” grid so that they will make a mass by midsummer, alternating blocks of red and white, interspersed periodically with clumps of the Peter Pan agapanthus.
- G. In fall there is a small annual white daisy on plants that spread about 8” wide and 6” tall. I do not recall its name but it is common in all the nurseries in early fall and it will bloom throughout the winter and into the spring until it is time to plant the Vinca rosea
- H. After removing unwanted plants and before adding new ones, again dig in 2-3” of good compost to improve soil health and tilth, plus add some compost to the soil surface surrounding the remaining plants.
- I. After planting is complete, cover bare soil with shredded bark mulch.

The result of this planting design should provide you with a pleasing, simple but elegant showcase for the honor wall that should be attractive, provide the color scheme you are looking and yet enhance the respectful impression of the whole monument.

If you have questions, I would be glad to help.