



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

FRIENDS OF THE VETERANS MONUMENT

Background

Friends of the Veterans Monument (FVM), a 501.c (3) charitable organization (Fed ID# 39-2055656, CA ID# C2966953, CA Charity Reg. # CT0248073), 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 (EDCVM) at 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 (EDCVA), which 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 2018, 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, secure and set up seating, review and invite speakers, arrange and conduct military ceremonies, and coordinate participation by veterans and community groups.

Approximately 1,500 people attended Memorial Day ceremonies and a similar number attended Veterans Day ceremonies.

Special ceremonies were conducted on Memorial Day and Veterans Day in lieu of keynote speakers.

On Memorial Day, two new granite benches were dedicated. The first of the two benches is a memorial to those who served during the Vietnam War and the second memorializes those who served during wars and conflicts since Vietnam, the wars of the late 20th and the 21st centuries.

A half-muffled ship's bell was sounded following the reading of the names of 32 El Dorado County servicemen who died during the Vietnam War and upon the reading of the 32 wars and conflicts in which the U.S. Armed Forces have served since Vietnam. Veterans Monument scholarships were presented to graduating high school students who are the descendants of veterans.



On Veterans Day, a bronze plaque memorializing the crew of a Mitchell B25D bomber that crashed near Placerville in 1943 was dedicated. The roll of the bomber's crew was called with a half-muffled ship's bell sounded for the two crewmen who did not survive the crash. Thereafter, the names of El Dorado County servicemen who died in wars since Vietnam were read with a half-muffled bell sounded following each name.

Four World War II veterans were recognized with Wally Richardson, a retired Navy Commander who flew Helldiver and Corsair bombers during WWII and Korea, being honored as Veteran of the Year for his many years of service and his exemplary actions in greeting and encouraging middle school students to lead lives of humility and service.

Improvements at the EDC Veterans Monument included purchase and placement of six red umbrellas to shade spectators seated in the open patio area (often elderly) from intense May sunlight, completion of the installation of two additional lamp posts to improve safety and security and renumbering of brick and memorial sections in a logical pattern (with renumbered bricks uploaded to the EDCVM's online directory – see No Vet Forgotten).



Welcome Home Statuary

Statuary portraying the veterans experience of returning home, as described in Attachment A, was unveiled and a fund-raising campaign announced on Memorial Day, 2018.

Landscape Plan

A landscaping improvements plan, conceived by the El Dorado County Master Gardeners, has been provided to the El Dorado County Facilities Department for gradual implementation. FVM volunteers refresh flower beds with seasonal annual flowers and do twice annual field days at the EDCVM. Significant improvement to ground cover at the monument has occurred because of maintenance changes instituted by the facilities department.



No Vet Forgotten

FVM's No Vet Forgotten program placed bricks for numerous homeless and destitute veterans who died in the previous year. This program assures that a veteran's service is not forgotten in El Dorado County. It is one of the few such programs in California. Seen above are bricks that were installed in 2018, including one for ETN3 Elliott Cohen, a homeless veteran whose service will never be forgotten.

Salute to Valor

The fifth Salute to Valor benefit golf tournament was held at the Serrano Country Club in September. This event is FVM's largest fundraising effort and generated over \$33,000 for local veterans causes. Over \$180,000 has been raised for local veterans causes since the tournament was established. El Dorado County active duty military recruiters compete for the Armed Forces Trophy. This program has inculcated a sense of camaraderie and cooperation among the recruiters and with local veterans groups that is exclusive to El Dorado County.

The tournament was organized in cooperation with members of the Serrano Country Club for the purpose of benefitting El Dorado County veterans and their families. The event is FVM's largest fundraising effort and generated grants to:

- Folsom Lake College Veterans Success Center (educational aid to veterans)
- Snowline Hospice (end-of-life care for veterans and their families)

- Sierra Chaplaincy (counseling to veterans and their families in law enforcement)
- Military Family Support Group (support to veteran families)
- Only Kindness (support to homeless veterans)
- Military Order of the Purple Heart (assisting wounded veterans)

2018 EDC Veterans Monument 2018 TOT Account Balances, Income and Expenses

TOT Account - 2018			
	Income	Expense	Balance
Income			
EDCF - Starting Balance	\$15,805.73		
FVM - 2018 Allocation	\$13,000.00		
FVM - 2018 Capital	\$10,000.00		
Expenses - EDCF			
Bench - Vietnam, 21st Century, No Vet Forgotten bricks		-\$9,137.00	
Damaged bricks		-\$470.00	
Flags		-\$116.29	
Insurance - Liability		-\$1,000.00	
Memorial Day - AV Fuel		-\$1,200.00	
Memorial Day - Chorus		-\$200.00	
Memorial Day - Cut Flowers		-\$208.38	
Memorial Day - Flower Refresh		-\$59.91	
Memorial Day - Programs		-\$751.76	
Umbrellas		-\$412.54	
Veterans Day - Chorus		-\$200.00	
Veterans Day - Cut Flowers		-\$208.38	
Expenses - FVM			
Maintenance - Duct Tape		-\$10.45	
Memorial Day - Bench Veils		-\$12.50	
Memorial Day - Flower Refresh		-\$27.92	
Memorial Day - Half-muffled Bell		-\$13.53	
Memorial Day - Ice, water		-\$17.83	
Veterans Day - AV Fuel		-\$1,200.00	
Veterans Day - Posters		-\$75.00	

Veterans Day - Potting mix		-\$20.62	
Veterans Day - Program and Poster Mounting		-\$730.00	
Veterans Day - Vet of the Year Trophy		-\$527.54	
Veterans Day - Water, Ice		-\$27.30	
BALANCE	\$38,805.73	-\$16,626.95	\$22,178.78

The preceding spreadsheet illustrates TOT-related financials only.

2018 EDC Veterans Monument 2019 Budget

Memorial Day

Landscape Refresh.....	\$500
Flags	\$75
Fuel (warbird flyover)	\$1,600
Printing	\$750
Flowers (wreath and carnations)	\$210
Recognition.....	\$500
Music	\$250
Transportation.....	\$50
Water and Ice.....	\$25
Memorials.....	\$500
Reserve	\$290
SUBTOTAL	\$5,000

Veterans Day

Landscape Refresh.....	\$500
Flags	\$75
Fuel (warbird flyover)	\$1,600
Printing	\$750
Flowers (wreath and carnations)	\$210
Recognition (Veteran of the Year)	\$500
Music	\$250
Transportation.....	\$50
Water and Ice.....	\$25
Memorials.....	\$500
Reserve	\$290
SUBTOTAL	\$5,000

2019 Allocation..... \$10,000

Capital Fund/Reserve \$12,179

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

No Vet Forgotten (annual).....	\$500
Landscaping Improvements.....	\$5,000
Sound System Improvements	\$5,000
Welcome Home Statuary Production and Placement.....	\$200,000

Account Balances as of 12/31/18

El Dorado Community Foundation
TOT Account (VM Ceremonies and Improvements)..... \$1,841
FVM's Bank Account (USBank) \$39,163

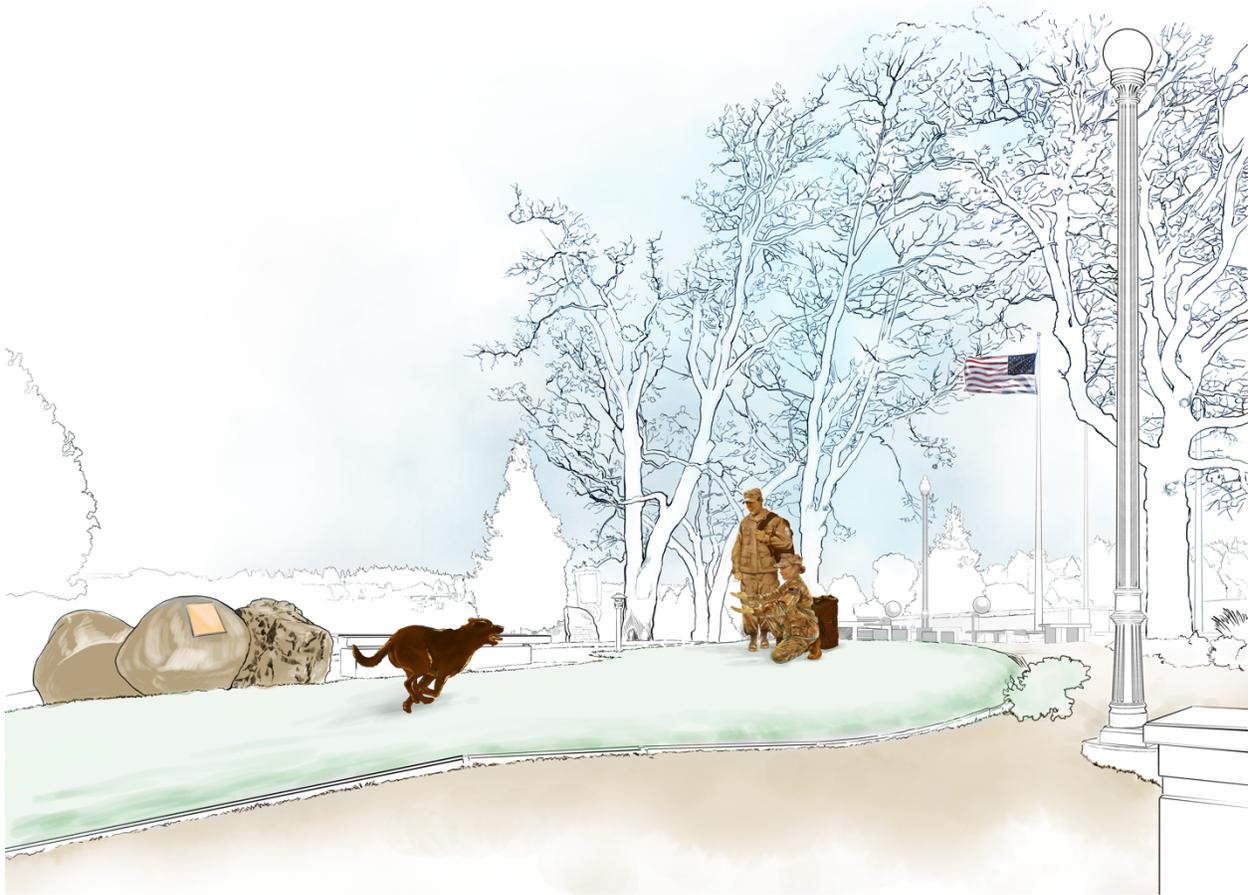
2019 Allocation

EDC Veterans Affairs Commission \$10,000

Submitted by:
Gary Campbell, President
John Poimiroo, Secretary/Treasurer

Friends of the Veterans Monument
685 Placerville Dr.
Placerville, CA 95667
info@eldoradocountyveterans.org
(916) 801-1013

Attachment A



WELCOME HOME

Welcome Home portrays a joyous return from duty for two El Dorado County members of the U.S. Armed Forces. It is the welcome that every service man or woman looks forward to receiving and should receive upon returning home from duty.

Standing is a life-sized male figure dressed in early 2000s fatigues similar to those worn by the U.S. Army, Air Force and Coast Guard. Kneeling is a female figure dressed in fatigues similar to those worn by the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Rating and warfare patches are obscured intentionally, so that the figures can represent anyone.

Running joyously toward them is a Labrador retriever, symbolic of the joy that family and friends have over the return of their service man or woman from duty. It also represents the welcome that some service members never got, but which through the statuary will never end.

The bronze statuary was conceived by members of Friends of the Veterans Monument (a 501.c3 charitable organization) and designed by famed sculptor of military themes and figures, Rip Caswell. It is designed to be placed on the lawn to the left of the entrance walkway at the El Dorado County Veterans Monument in Placerville. This site is visited by many thousands each year.

Memorial bricks, stones, benches and plaques at the EDC Veterans Monument identify veterans from the French and Indian Wars to present day. Several of these memorials recognize extraordinary valor in the defense of liberty. However, “Welcome Home” will be the first personification of the veteran experience at the EDC Veterans Monument.

It is estimated that it will cost \$200,000 to cast and place the statues. A multi-year fund-raising effort is planned by Friends of the Veterans Monument.

For more information about “Welcome Home” and how you can help fund its creation, visit eldoradocountyveterans.org.