

Thornton veterans memorial receives nod from city council

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The effort to build a veterans memorial in Thornton has reached a major milestone and is a step closer to reality. The Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation recently presented their plans to the city council and has received permission to proceed with planning for the memorial.

Founded in April, the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation was established by area citizens for the purpose of building a veterans memorial to honor our nation's veterans. Privately funded and created, the foundation endeavors to make the memorial a reality for the city, its citizens and all veterans. With the backing of area businesses, city council members, veteran organizations and citizens, this memorial will be Colorado's premier memorial offering tribute to those few who we owe so much.

The memorial is expected to be built on the grounds of a new park the city of Thornton is planning in the area of 139th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard. This 18-acre plot of land is ac-

tually the highest point in the city, affording beautiful views of the mountains and the surrounding area. The location is easy to get to from anywhere in the city and will have integrated parking and will be fully accessible to the handicapped.

It will be largely naturally landscaped with native plants and grasses with trails and a small playground. The memorial is expected to occupy the highest point, a most fitting place for the memorial.

The Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation has created a design that is truly unique and honors all veterans of all branches of service.

Primary input on the design of the memorial was obtained from citizens and veterans as well as civic organizations, local businesses and city leaders.

The design is based on a five point star, the same shape as the stars on the United States flag. In the center of the memorial will be a star of this design laid in the ground. Three flag poles holding the United States, Colorado and POW / MIA flags will rise from the middle of the star. These flags will be lit 24 hours a day, seven

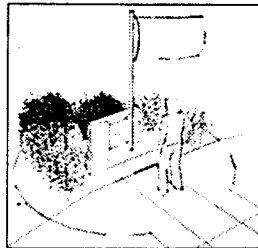
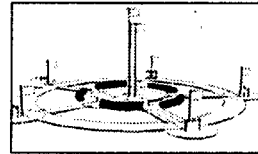
days a week ensuring the memorial serves as a reminder of our veterans at all times. Surrounding the star will be a sitting wall where visitors may sit and contemplate the sacrifices of veterans.

Emanating from the five points of the star are paths leading to monuments for each of the branches of the military — the Army, Navy, Marine Corp, Air Force and the Coast Guard. Each of these individual monuments will have the seal of the branch of service as well as the history of that branch engraved on it.

Holders will be incorporated for each branch's service flag. Another path will connect each monument to the one next to it encircling the entire memorial.

The foundation meets at 7 p.m. on the first and third Monday of every month at the Thornton City Hall. It is a completely open organization and attendance and participation by the public are welcomed and encouraged.

You can read more about the memorial, its design and learn how you can help on the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation website at www.thorntonveteransmemorial.org.



Artist renditions of the proposed Thornton Veterans Memorial.