

# Fundraising efforts planned to build veterans memorial

## Foundation seeking help from businesses and organizations

Story and photos posted by  
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THORNTON — The steady pace of advancement in making a veteran memorial in Thornton a reality continues.

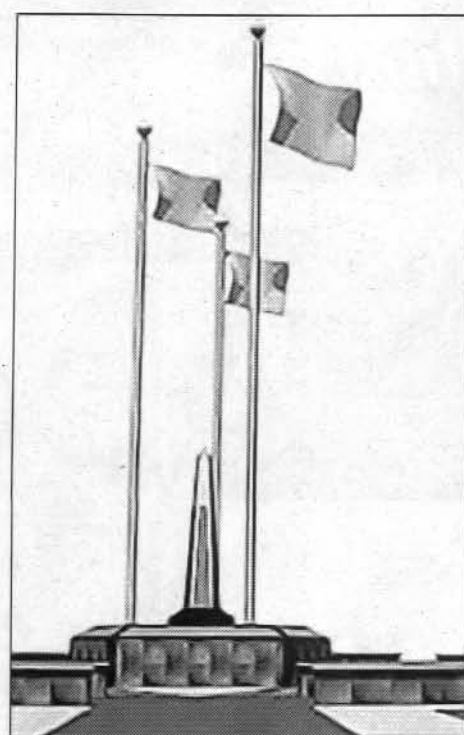
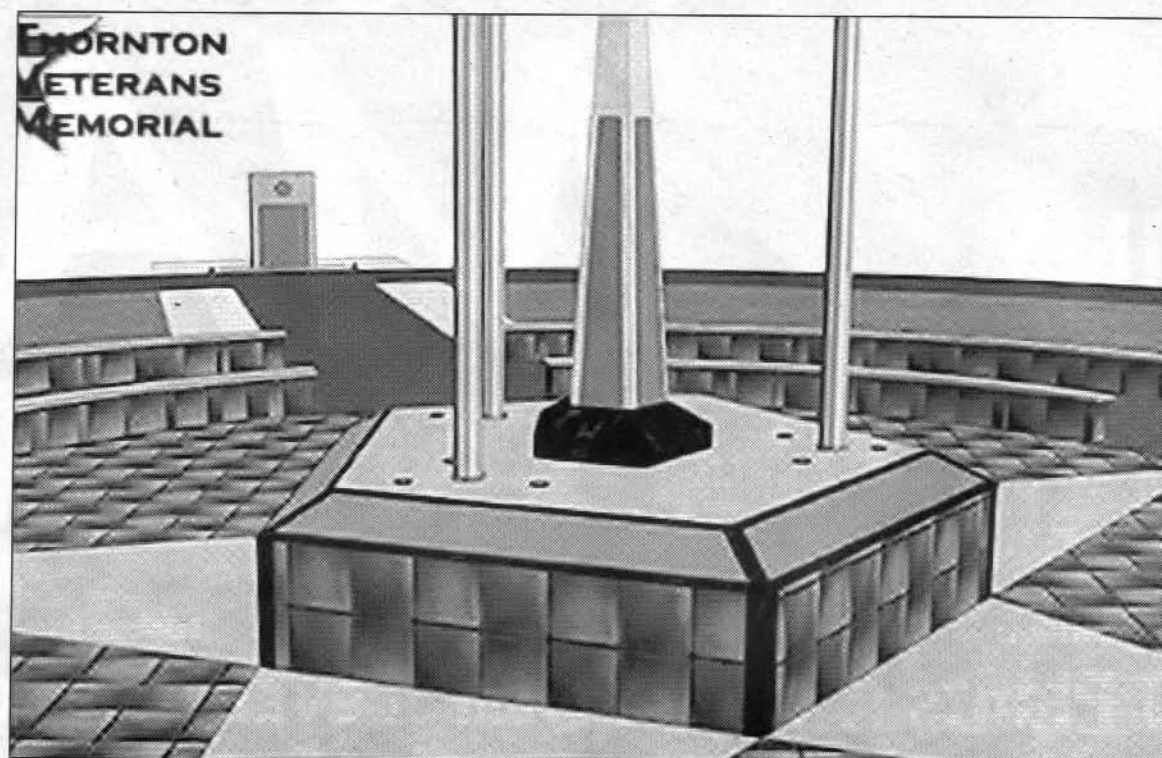
Fundraising is getting ready to take a front page role with a number of events planned in the coming months as the design of the memorial continues to be refined.

In recent weeks, the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation, in conjunction with **Greg Banks** of Valerian LLC, the architect for the project, unveiled the latest renderings for the memorial design. The latest designs continue building on the initial concept of honoring all branches of military service.

At approximately 150 feet in diameter, the memorial will be quite large and allows ample room for many visitors and for the special ceremonies that will be held once it is built. Special attention is being made to ensure the memorial is fully accessible to all veterans and citizens. With eight-foot wide walkways and being completely level it will be totally handicapped accessible.

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 with a raised pentagon. 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. Also in the center will be a five sided obelisk meant to invoke the Washington Memorial. 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



**The Thornton Veteran's Memorial**, which 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, will be a place where all veterans and all branches of the military service will be honored. Organizers with the foundation are currently holding fundraisers to help with the cost of construction of the memorial. Clockwise from top: A rendering of the center view of the memorial. A head view of the memorial. An aerial view of the memorial which displays five points signifying each of the branches of the military — the Army, Navy, Marine Corp, Air Force and the Coast Guard.

have the seal of the branch of service as well as the history of that branch engraved on it in a graphical format. 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.

As the design is finalized, the hardest part of making the memorial a reality begins — that of fundraising.

In recent weeks the Foundation has begun taking donations via its Web site at [www.thorntonveteransmemorial.org](http://www.thorntonveteransmemorial.org)

Donations can easily be made online and only take a matter of seconds using a secure payment system and any major credit card.

"Donations are how this memorial is going to be built and we are

to the point of really needing the public to help," said **Tony Hake**, vice chairman of the foundation. "Our core group of members have donated a tremendous amount of time and money to the effort but as things move forward, we are seeking a new infusion of contributions. No matter the amount, any donation from private citizens and local businesses would be greatly appreciated and go a long ways toward making this memorial a reality. We need the public's help."

In the near future, the foundation will be opening its online store where you will be able to purchase commemorative clothing such as hats and T-shirts as well as purchase your own "donor brick" with yours or the name of a loved one engraved on it. These bricks will form the base of the walkways at the memorial and will serve as a lasting tribute to those whose names are engraved on them.

Continuing the push to get funds for getting the memorial rolling, on May 13 the Foundation will hold a benefit dinner at the Northglenn Elks located at 10969 Irma Drive in Northglenn. The public is invited and encouraged to attend and enjoy dinner, drinks, live music and a silent auction — all to benefit the memorial. Dinner is from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. followed by live music and the silent auction.

The city of Thornton is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year and during its Fourth of July celebration will be honoring all local veterans. The foundation has worked closely with the city in developing the "Salute to the Troops" theme for the event helping to form the parameters for the celebration and the best way to honor those who have served.

There will be a tent set up at the event for the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation where you can learn more about this significant project. This will prove to be a very special night and everyone is encouraged to visit the foundation's website to learn more.

You can learn more about the memorial design, the latest news, making donations, and the upcoming events on the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation website at [www.thorntonveteransmemorial.org](http://www.thorntonveteransmemorial.org).

Should anyone have any questions about the memorial, contact information on the website will get you in touch with the foundation.

*Tony Hake is the vice chairman of the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation.*