



To honor those who have sacrificed for us all

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Thornton Veterans Memorial Assists in Crafting and Sees Passage of State House Joint Resolution 1028

Resolution Asks Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO) to Help Fund Veterans Memorials

THORNTON, Colorado – The Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation is pleased to announce the passing of Colorado State House Joint Resolution 07-1028, Concerning Great Outdoors Colorado Program Funding for Veterans Memorials.

Over recent months, working with the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation's Legislative Steering Committee, this resolution took shape. The Steering Committee members include Mike Coffman, a combat veteran and Colorado's Secretary of State who also serves as Honorary Chairperson of the Foundation, as well as Thornton's State Legislative Delegation including State Senator Lois Tochtrop (District 24) and State Representatives Judy Solano (District 31), Edward Casso (District 32), and John Soper (District 34).

This is viewed as an important opportunity to help fund memorials in our state to honor our nation's veterans and it shows the commitment of these distinguished public servants to the United States military and to Colorado veterans. Also in attendance to show their support were representatives of the United Veterans Committee of Colorado and the Foundation thanks them for their support.

Introduced in the House by State Representative John Soper and co-sponsored by all veterans currently serving in the House, this resolution asks Great Outdoors Colorado to consider providing funding for veterans memorials throughout the state. This resolution passed the House unanimously on April 24th and was carried in the Senate by Senator Lois Tochtrop where it passed unanimously as well on May 2nd.

Since the founding of this nation, extraordinary men and women have stepped forth to serve in uniform to protect this nation. They have made sacrifices small and large, all to ensure our freedom. Veterans memorials serve as a testament to these citizens who have found and continue to fight today for the freedoms which we all enjoy. Ensuring our veterans are properly memorialized and remembered is an obligation we have and is but a small way to repay them for our service.

Great Outdoors Colorado funds allow extraordinary work across the state and their monies have allowed Colorado citizens to enjoy enhanced recreational opportunities and to help preserve open space. Just as GOCO funds have been used to build skate parks, ball fields, playgrounds and

many other things, we believe that outdoor veterans memorials are a natural extension of GOCO's current work.

What could be more appropriate than helping to fund memorials to honor those that protect the very land that GOCO seeks to preserve?

“While this came out of the efforts for the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation, it is important to note that this has statewide impact,” said Tony Hake, Chairman of the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation. “We commend GOCO for the extraordinary works they have helped accomplish in the past and we ask them to now take this step to help ensure our nation's veterans receive their proper due.”

Press Conference at the State Capitol



In attendance: Secretary of State Mike Coffman, State Senator Lois Tochtrop, State Representative John Soper, members of the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation, representatives of the United Veterans Committee and Tim Drago, founder of the Colorado Veterans Monument.

About the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation

Founded in 2005, the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established by citizens of Thornton, Colorado with the sole purpose of building and maintaining a veterans memorial. Our nation's veterans have served and protected the United States for 230 years. They have made sacrifices small and large, all to ensure the freedom of this great nation. A fitting and proper tribute within our city is a small way of showing our appreciation for their service. Privately funded and created, the Foundation endeavors to make this memorial a reality for the city, its citizens and all veterans.

The memorial will pay tribute to all veterans of the past, present and future. Located near the Thornton Recreation Center at 108th Avenue and Colorado Boulevard, the memorial will be centrally located and easily accessible from anywhere in the north metro area. The design, based on a five point star with each point representing each branch of military service, will be over 150 feet in diameter. A pentagon and five-sided obelisk will be in the center of the memorial with individual monuments for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard surrounding it.

To learn more about the Foundation and the memorial project, please visit our website at <http://www.thorntonveteransmemorial.org>.