

# COUNTY OF EL DORADO

## RECORDER CLERK - REGISTRAR OF VOTERS - VETERANS AFFAIRS

William E. Schultz



**Recorder-Clerk**  
**Commissioner of Civil Marriages**  
360 Fair Lane  
Placerville CA 95667  
[www.edcgov.us/countyclerk/](http://www.edcgov.us/countyclerk/)  
Phone: 530.621.5490  
**Jane Kohlstedt**  
Assistant Recorder-Clerk

**Registrar of Voters**  
2850 Fairlane Court  
PO Box 678001  
Placerville CA 95667  
[www.edcgov.us/elections/](http://www.edcgov.us/elections/)  
Phone: 530.621.7480 Fax: 530.626.5514  
**Linda Webster**  
(Acting) Assistant Registrar of Voters

**Veterans Affairs Office**  
130 Placerville Drive, Suite B  
Placerville CA 95667  
[www.edcgov.us/veterans/](http://www.edcgov.us/veterans/)  
Phone: 530.621.5892 Fax 530.621.2218  
**William E. Schultz**  
**Veterans Affairs Interim Dept. Head**  
Ed Swanson  
Veterans Service Officer

May 13, 2013

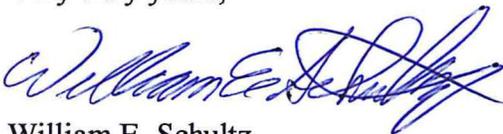
To: Honorable Members of the El Dorado County  
Board of Supervisors

CC: Teri Daly, C.A.O.

Dear Board Members,

As the Interim Director of Veteran Affairs, I am forwarding the enclosed copies of the El Dorado County Veterans Monument 2012 Annual Report. This report was prepared by the Friends of the Veterans Monument, Inc.

Very truly yours,

  
William E. Schultz

2013 MAY 13 PM 1:45  
CLERK OF SUPERVISORS  
EL DORADO COUNTY

cc: CAO  
Board of Supervisors  
Bill Schultz

# El Dorado County Veterans Monument

# 2012 Annual Report

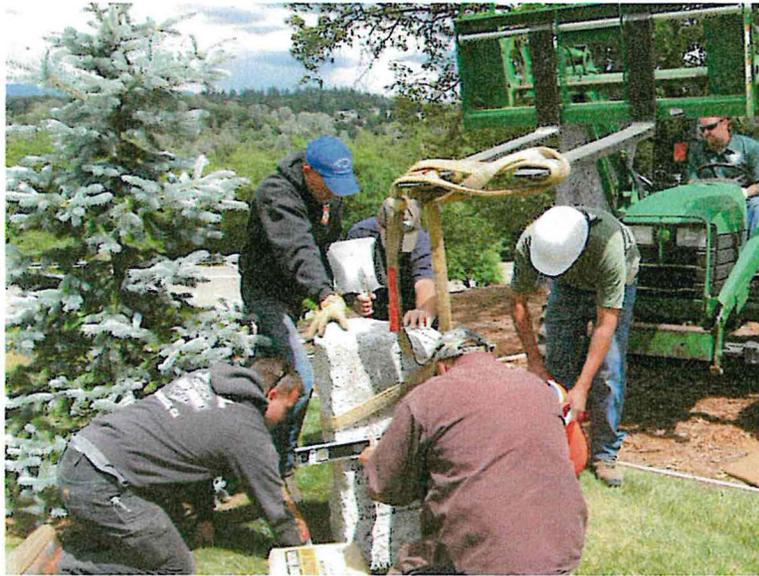


Photo: Placement of El Dorado County Veterans Monument Christmas tree and marker  
Donated by Brian and Lori Veerkamp  
Engraving donated by Mike Tilson

The Veterans Monument Christmas Tree marker reads:

**In honor of El Dorado County Veterans:  
Those valiant individuals  
who served in the  
U.S. Armed Forces so  
Liberty may forever reign**

**RECEIVED**

MAY -9 2013

**EL DORADO COUNTY  
VETERAN AFFAIRS**

# 2012 Annual Report

Friends of the Veterans Monument,  
Inc.

Founded 1997

## OUR MISSION

*To honor those who have served  
the Cause of Freedom, to preserve the legacy of the  
monument, to educate, and to foster cooperation  
among veterans .*

## Dear Friend:

More than 7 years after its dedication, the annual El Dorado County Veterans Monument Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies, sponsored by the Friends of the Veterans Monument, are still the most well attended tributes to veterans in our regions.

Nearly two thousand visitors packed the Monument Plaza for the ceremonies and thousands more visited the monument during the year, often pausing in front of the 2000 pound suspended Dakota granite panel that reads: "To honor those who have served the cause of freedom." Many were seeking the names of loved ones engraved on the 3000+ bricks, plaques and benches and were often seen making rubbings of those names and leaving items to pay tribute to those they lost.

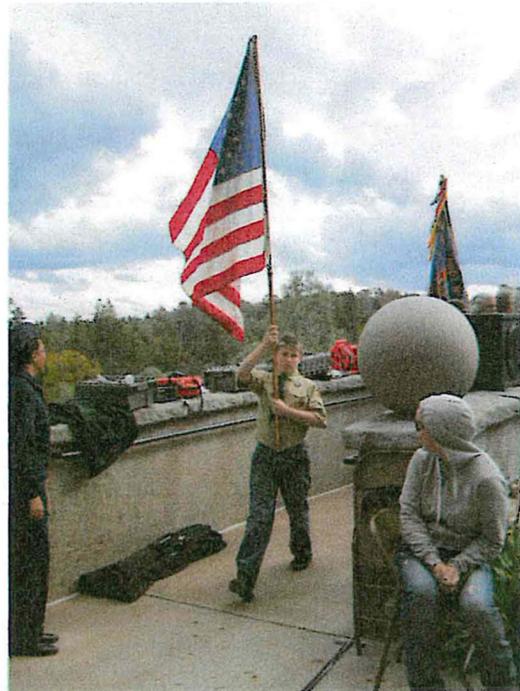
In 2010 the Friends began focusing on remembering our veterans to future generations and telling the stories of the people whose names are engraved on the walkways and walls of the monument grounds. Our annual events always pay special tribute to those who never came home or have since died, and how they touched our lives. This is especially poignant on Memorial Day when thousands come to the monument to remember family members.

Our mission through our programs is clear: To honor those who have served the cause of freedom, to preserve the legacy of the monument, to educate, and to foster cooperation among veterans.

The Friends of the Veterans Monument is also dedicated to educate our youth regarding military traditions, ensuring that future generations always remember the contributions and sacrifices of those who answered the call of duty in defense of our country.

Sincerely,

Richard W. Buchanan NC USMC  
Friends of the Veterans Monument, Inc.



# History

El Dorado County Veterans Monument is intended to honor those who have served the cause of freedom and to provide a place for individuals to engage in quiet contemplation, reflection, meditation, and consideration of the veterans and their service. To preserve this purpose, it is intended that the Monument not be utilized for any organized activities other than the commemorative ceremonies to be held on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

## Memorial Day 2012 summary

Monument Sgt-At-Arm **Sgt. K.P. Smothers**, former United States Marine, once again gave the Call to Order and Present Colors, performed by a United States Marine Corps Color Guard. Friends of the Veterans Monument pilots performed a close-formation vintage war bird fly-by, including a second fly by in missing man formation, in honor of El Dorado County veterans who lost their lives defending our freedoms.

**Lt. Col. Tim Thompson** USAR (ret.), monument chaplain, gave the invocation and benediction.

Master of Ceremonies was **Lt. Col. Kurt Raffetto** USAFR, KC-135 Stratotanker Command Pilot. Lt. Col. Raffetto has deployed in support of Operations DESERT SHIELD/STORM/CALM, SOUTHERN WATCH, JOINT GUARD, JOINT FORGE, and IRAQI FREEDOM. He is a Placerville native.



KC-135 Stratotanker refueling an F-18



**Senior Master Sgt. Ian J.A. Troxell**, USAFR, was the keynote speaker. Sergeant Troxell is assigned to the 713<sup>th</sup> Combat Operations Squadron, 940<sup>th</sup> Wing, Beale Air Force Base, California. He is currently an Operations Division Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge. Following his active duty service, Sergeant Troxell transferred to the Air Force Reserves to continue serving while pursuing a civilian career in the California Highway Patrol. Over the course of his career, he has served in a variety of assignments within airman, non-commissioned officer and senior non-commissioned officer roles. Sergeant Troxell is a decorated veteran of Operations SOUTHERN WATCH, IRAQI FREEDOM and ENDURING FREEDOM. In 2004, he was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Memorial Day Proclamations were delivered by Major General Peter J. Gravett, Secretary of California Department of Veterans Affairs, on behalf of Governor Brown and Supervisor John Knight on behalf of El Dorado County.

The El Dorado Community Foundation Director Bill Roby addressed the crowd, giving the history of the Veterans Monument Scholarship fund and assisting James Cahill USA, Friends of the Veterans Monument, presentation of the 2012 Veterans Monument Scholarship award, followed with the wreath laying and 21-gun salute, benediction, and Taps. The colors were retired, ending the 2012 Memorial Day event.

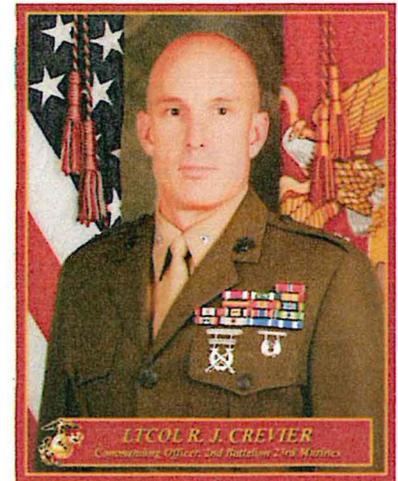


Major General Peter J. Gravett

## Veterans Day Summary

Sgt KP Smothers USMC, Monument Sgt-At-Arms lead the way with the Call to Order, Presentation of Colors, and the Pledge of Allegiance executed by a United States Marine Corps Color Guard, shadowed by Civil Air Patrol Color Guard from Cadet Squadron 85. Lt. Commander Jake "Slim" Parsons USNR emceed the event.

El Dorado County resident, United States Marine Corps Lt. Colonel Richard J. Crevier. gave the Veterans Day address. Lieutenant Colonel Crevier is the Commanding Officer of 2d Battalion, 23d Marine Regiment. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps after earning a Bachelors Degree from the University of California, Davis.



In 1994, after completing the Basic School at Quantico, Va., he served as: Rifle Platoon Commander, Weapons Platoon Commander, Company Executive Officer, and Weapons Company Executive Officer with 2d Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He supported operations in Bosnia and Panama. In the civilian sector, LtCol Crevier holds a corporate officer position with a major defense contracting firm.

The Foothills Women's Chorus sang the National Anthem and My Country Tis of Thee. The third annual El Dorado County Veterans Monument Veteran of the Year Award was presented to the recipient.

Supervisor John Knight presented the Veterans Day Proclamation on behalf of El Dorado County.

The wreath laying was done by Glenn and Rose Shuder in honor of their son, L/CPL Brad Shuder, USMC KIA. They were assisted by First Sgt. Marty Sanford USAR (Ret.).

A 21-gun salute by the Veterans Rifle Team of EDC followed. LCDR Bill Tubbs USCGR (Ret.) played a meaningful rendition of Amazing Grace, followed by Taps. The colors were retired, ending the 2011 Veterans Day ceremony.



## Two benches added to Monument Plaza

Hayden Cooksy, Eagle Scout hopeful planned and raised funds to provide an engraved granite bench honoring those who served in the Korean War. The bench was installed in the Veterans Monument Plaza and dedicated on Veterans Day. As part of the dedication, Hayden invited all Korean War veterans in the crowd to join him at the new bench. The Friends of the Veterans Monument and the El Dorado Community Foundation announced the new Welcome Home Fund, created to help support not only Hayden's Eagle Scout project, but also to serve as an ongoing fund, with seven community members as advisers. The fund will be used in the ongoing efforts of the Friends of the Veteran's Monument for enhancing the site in a myriad of ways, all aimed at providing our veterans with a permanent thanks and welcome home!



Hayden Cooksy discusses his Eagle Scout project with Lt. Commander Jake Parsons USNR, F-18E pilot



The second engraved bench honors Staff Sergeant Mote USMC: SSGT. Mote was mortally wounded while serving as an Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM on 10 August 2012. He served as a member of the Marine Special Operations Team 8133 in Company C of the 1st Marine Special Operations Battalion. While conducting village stability operations, three Marines inside the tactical operations center came under intense small arms fire from a uniformed Afghan Police

Officer attacking from inside the perimeter. Gravely wounded he exposed himself to a hail of gunfire-drawing attention away from his comrades enabling their escape.

## **Fourth Annual El Dorado County Veterans Monument Veteran of the Year Award**

Beginning November 11, 2009 the Friends of the Veterans Monument, Inc. annually recognizes an El Dorado County veteran on Veterans Day as the El Dorado County Veterans Monument Veteran of the Year.

The award recognizes a veteran who has compiled a record of exemplary service as a military service member, in veterans' issues, and as a citizen of El Dorado County. The award is part of the Friends of the Veterans Monument, Inc.'s ongoing effort and commitment to honor those who have served the cause of freedom.

Friend's member Gary Campbell, USAF (Ret.), presented the fourth annual El Dorado County Veterans Monument Veteran of the Year Award to recipient, Command Sergeant Major Phillip R. Houseworth, ASAR, "The Silent Professional." The award read:

For his distinguished service in the United States Army resulting in numerous awards including the Bronze Star, Meritorious Service Medal, three Army Commendation awards, and badges for Combat Action, Parachutist and Drill Sergeant and

In grateful appreciation for his contributions to El Dorado County as a respected citizen, husband, and father of four.

## **Veterans Monument Scholarship Fund**

Once each year the Friends Veterans Monument Scholarship Fund awards scholarships to deserving sons and daughters of veterans of El Dorado County residents for use in their continuing education.

The fund was established by the Friends and is an advised fund managed by the El Dorado Community Foundation with a current balance in excess of \$100,000.00 with available funds of \$15,797 for scholarships through 2012.

## **Monument Preservation**

During 2012, the Friends supplemented Buildings and Grounds Division's efforts to maintain the monument ground's high standard with donations of plants and ground cover and maintenance and design of additional future engraved brick locations. The Veterans monument is quickly becoming the front door to the El Dorado County Government Center, the gateway to the Sierra Nevada Mountains, and an admired addition to our national monuments honoring veterans.

## **Goals completed in 2012**

- Completed the design of additional engraved brick space
- Completed the design for additional seating for 1,000; awaiting funding
- Increased participation by Girl and Boy Scouts
- Installed 27 new engraved bricks
- Installed two new engraved granite benches in the Monument Plaza, completing the original design of five benches on each side
- Completed the design for Veterans of the 21st Century Wars Monument by Anova Nexus, architects; awaiting funding
- Completed monument directory; awaiting funding to publish.

## Goals for 2013

- Complete the monument's landscaping plan that was approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2006; awaiting funding
- Install street signs in the surrounding community with directions to the monument
- Install Veterans Monument signs at US Highway 50 exits that lead to the monument
- Install a sign with accent lighting on the monument's south/east outside tower wall facing Ray Lawyer Drive, identifying the structure as a veteran's monument as follows:

### **El Dorado County Veterans Monument**

- Expand the Monument Plaza to accommodate seating
- Construct an area for more engraved bricks
- Petition the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors for annual funds of \$12,000 to support the EDC annual Memorial and Veterans Day ceremonies

## **Friends of the Veterans Monument Inc. 2012 Board of Directors/Corporate Council**

Lt. Col Kurt Raffetto USAFR  
Richard W. Buchanan NC  
James Denmark USAF  
Lt.Col. Tim Thompson USA Ret.  
Andrew LePeilbet DSC USA  
Lt. Commander Jake Parsons USNR  
Hayden Coosky  
Bill Roby  
Carl Hagen USAF

Major General Dounglas Stone USMC Ken  
Ken Schoniger USN  
James Cahill USA  
Lt. Col. Gregory AM Etzel AFC USAF Ret.  
Capt. Norm Mahalich USMC  
Gary Campbell USAF Ret.  
Mike Tilson USA

## **Committee Members**

Lee Rebman - Chaplain  
Holly Salvestrin - Chorus  
Jim Cahill USA  
Glenn Gilbert Esq.  
Lt. Andrew LePeilbet DSC USA (Ret)  
K.P. Smothers USMC  
Gary Hansen USAF - Flags  
Jim Booth - Flight Leader  
Chuck Wahl - Pilot  
Veterans Rifle Team

Andrew Woll Esq.  
Mike Tilson, USA  
Chris Moore USA  
Capt. Jack Babbitt USMC (Ret)  
General LePeilbet  
Gary Cambell USAF  
Capt. Norm Mahalich USMC (Ret)  
Del Hanson – Monument Piper  
Richard Falk – Boy Scouts  
Lt. Col. Gregory AM Etzel AFC USAF

First Sgt. Marty Sanford USAR (ret)  
Aaron Yanagihara - Civil Air Patrol  
Adam Stupek USMC  
Salvatore Gigante USA  
Pat Egan - Boy Scouts  
Foothills Women's Chorus  
Hayden Cooksy

Kevin Cooksy  
John Riley USN - Photos  
Gary McMillan – Sound System  
Clifford Abbott - Bugler  
Frank Yost – Sound System  
Gold Star Mothers  
John Knight

## **Financial Information 2012**

Friends of the Veterans Monument Inc. takes the stewardship of our community's donation seriously. The programs we fund are designed to help us achieve our mission of preserving the legacy of the El Dorado County Veterans Monument.

Donations	\$11,925.00
In kind donations	\$ 1,745.75
Program expenses	\$ 10,167.20 (Bench \$5,000)