



Veterans Memorial Park - Field of Honor Honor Wall Recognition

City Council Quality of Life Subcommittee – July 31, 2025, 11:00am, 5th Floor Large

Agenda

- History of Veteran's Memorial and Commission
- Veteran's Commission Honor Wall Discussion
Timeline and Recommendation
- Honor Wall Recognition Panel Details
- Honor Wall Submission Process Review
- Discussion and Direction





Veterans Memorial

- The Field of Honor pays tribute to the Southeast Valley's past, present and future veterans. The Field of Honor is the first veteran memorial of its size and scope in the Southeast Valley.
- The memorial space honors all veterans from all branches of the U.S. military. It highlights a wide range of American history, serves as an educational resource, and provides a solemn and inspiring experience for all ages.



Veterans Memorial

- Inspired with the original Veterans Oasis Park planning
- Extensive community outreach & engagement (2008-2011)
- Guiding Principles and Vision:
Freedom, Reflection, Recognition, Sacrifice, Family, and Memories
- Visioned as a Regional Landmark

Chandler Military and Veterans Affairs Commission

(MVAC) - est. Nov 1, 2021

Purpose, Function and Duties. The Military and Veterans Affairs Commission shall serve as an Advisory Commission to the Chandler City Council. The purpose, function and duties of the Military and Veterans Affairs Commission shall be:

- A. To advise the Mayor and Council concerning military and veterans related issues including the quality and effectiveness of veteran's services in Chandler;
- B. Educate the military and veteran community on available resources and support;
- C. Collaborate and coordinate activities with military and veteran associations, commissions, and relevant government agencies; and
- D. Consider ways to acknowledge and honor the service and dedication of current military service personnel, veterans, and their family members; and
- E. Such other functions and duties as may from time to time be approved by the City Council.



Chandler Military and Veterans Affairs Commission



Discussion - MVAC Topic Timeline

February 13, 2023

Introduction of Concept

- staff presented an early concept of the memorial wall.
- It was noted that funding was not yet allocated in the current budget but could be considered for the next fiscal year.
- The Commission expressed support for the proposal and encouraged continued progress.

August 8, 2023

Positive Reception & Visualization

- Staff provided a visual mock-up of what the memorial wall could look like.
- The Commission remained enthusiastic and reaffirmed its support.
- No specific funding or timeline commitments were made.

March 12, 2024

Funding Consideration

- Staff reported that additional funding for the next phase of the memorial project was under consideration by City Council for the next fiscal year.
- This indicated a shift from concept to more formal evaluation and planning stages.

Discussion - MVAC Topic Timeline

August 13, 2024

Project Budgeting & Implementation Planning Begins

- Staff announced funding (\$750k) was allocated in July through the capital improvement budget.
- The project will soon enter Implementation Planning
- The Commission discussed future steps including:
 - Nomination vetting (ex: verify via Form DD 214s).
 - Engraving criteria
 - Name arrangement

February 11, 2025

Veterans Representation Expansion

- During public comments, a representative from Jewish War Veterans Post #619 proposed a plaque or memorial honoring Jewish war veterans at Veterans Oasis Park.

This concept was determined to be placed on the next agenda for action.

- This marked the beginning of discussions to diversify the memorial's representation and received general acceptance of exploring the concept

Discussion - MVAC Topic Timeline

March 11, 2025

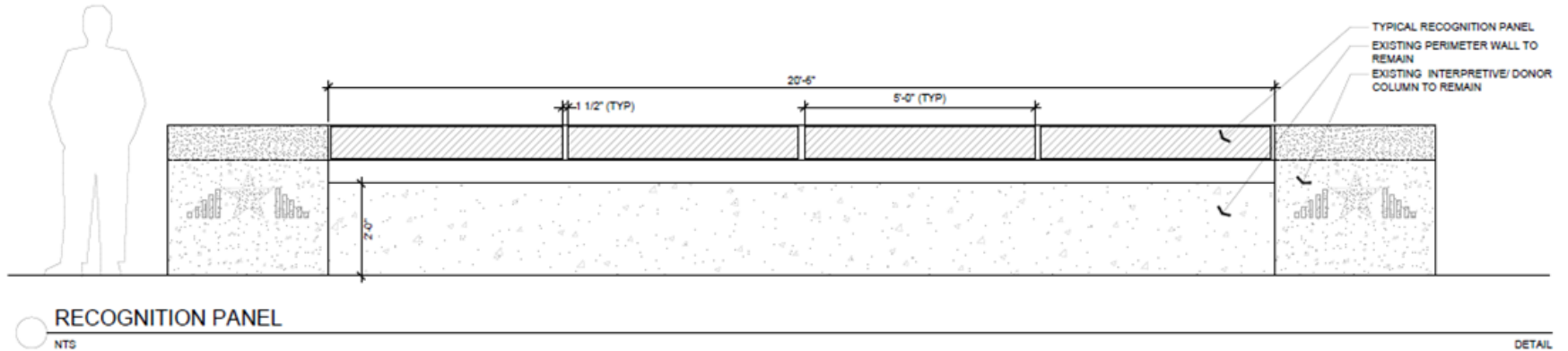
Veterans Memorial Phase 3: Group/Organization Inclusion Discussion

- A mock-up panel design was reviewed; technical constraints prevented inclusion of backlighting due to font limitations.
- The Commission discussed adding rank abbreviations and special designations like KIA, MIA, and POW.
- A significant portion of the meeting addressed whether to allow representation of veteran groups and organizations on the memorial.

Consensus

- The memorial should emphasize unity and shared service, rather than highlighting specific groups.
- Including organizations might lead to perceived bias, challenges in verifying legitimacy, and mission drift.
- The Commission recommended against including group names in Phase 3 but left open the idea of honoring organizations through other methods.

Honor Wall Recognition ~ Concept



Honor Wall Recognition ~ Concept

Existing

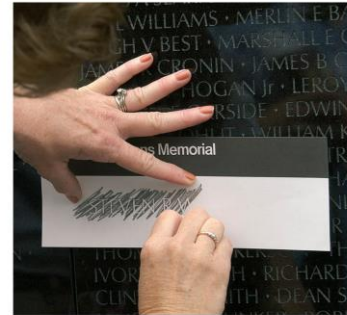


Proposed



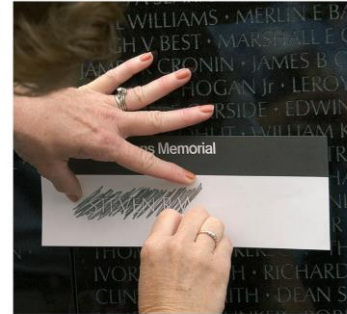
Honor Wall Recognition Details

- 14 Sections, 4 Panels per section
- Panels = ~ 48" wide x 22" tall
- Nameplate = 9.5" wide x 2" tall
 - ~ 42 names total per panel
 - ~ 2350 total names at build out



Honor Wall Recognition

Proposed Locations at completion



Kimley»Horn

APRIL 24, 2023

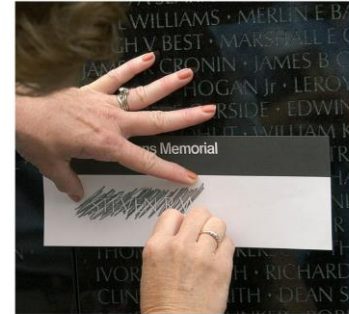
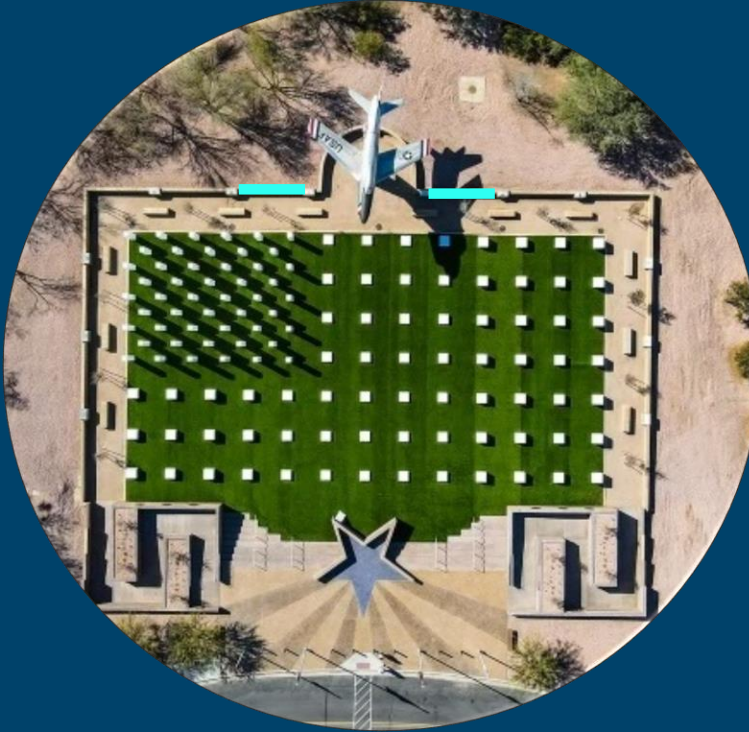
Field of Honor

VETERAN RECOGNITION

Honor Wall Recognition

Proposed Locations at completion

Stage 1
336 names



Kimley»Horn

APRIL 24, 2023

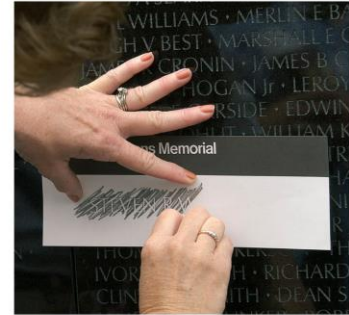
Field of Honor

VETERAN RECOGNITION

Honor Wall Recognition

Proposed Locations at completion

Stage 2+ →
- future



Kimley»Horn

APRIL 24, 2023

Field of Honor

VETERAN RECOGNITION

Honor Wall Recognition ~ Name Layout

1	2	3	4	5
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Proposed Policy and Procedure

Eligibility: Must have served in the US Armed Forces with an honorable discharge or be currently serving. Must have a connection to the City of Chandler / East Valley. Can be living or deceased, serving or served in Branch or Reserves.

Submission: Complete the official application form available online. Provide the veteran's full name, service branch, service dates, and proof of service (e.g., DD-214).

Deadlines: Submissions are accepted year-round. Installs planned Feb, June, Oct.

Review: The MVAC reviews applications and records agenda action at monthly meetings. Applicants will be notified of their submission status.

Inscription: Names are inscribed with First Name, Last Name, Years of Service, Branch of Service, and Rank. Name placement is based on the date of approval.

Appeals: Denied submissions can be appealed within 30 days with additional documentation.

Contact: For inquiries, contact CSAdmin@chandleraz.gov or call 480-782-2727



Submission Process



Applications for Recognition Plates offered year-round

Process = ~4 months
(application to installation)

All honorees will be featured in promotional materials

Featured webpage for finding names



Submission Process ~ Webform



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Field of Honor: Veterans Honor Wall

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The Field of Honor at Veterans Oasis Park is excited to begin Phase 3 of the memorial, featuring a Veterans Honor Wall. The wall pays tribute to the veterans who have served our country. Please complete the form to honor a veteran or a group/organization on the Veterans Honor Wall.

Would you like to honor a Veteran or a Group/Organization?

☐ Veteran ☒ Group/Organization

Submitter Information

First Name *

Last Name *

Address *

Address 2

City/Town *

State/Province *

- Select -

ZIP/Postal Code *

Phone *

Email *

Discussion

- Individual Recognition Layout
 - Discussed and approved through MVAC.
- Groups
 - MVAC recommended against group recognition on this wall / phase - propose alternate
- Donation through Park & Rec Trust Fund
 - \$150 - \$200 per individual
 - Potentially subsidized via fundraising through the MVAC events & sponsorships





Discussion – Subcommittee Direction