



To honor those who have sacrificed for us all

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Thornton Veterans Memorial Receives Valuable Support from Colorado Secretary of State
Mike Coffman and Thornton's Legislative Delegation**

Combat Veteran Coffman Named an Honorary Chairperson of the Foundation

THORNTON, Colorado – The Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation is pleased to announce the support of Mike Coffman, a combat veteran and Colorado's Secretary of State, 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).

Over recent weeks, Thornton Mayor Pro Tem Marty Wisniewski, Chairman of the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation, Tony Hake, and Stan and Terry Cooper and Randy Bishop, founding members of the Foundation, have met with local and state leaders to discuss the project and what the memorial means to veterans and the Thornton community. The response was highly enthusiastic and resulted in the formation of the Foundation's Legislative Steering Committee.

"We could not be more pleased with the support by our elected state officials," said Tony Hake, Chairman of the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation. "This veterans memorial is a significant project, not only for Thornton, but for the entire north metro area and indeed, the state. Having Colorado leaders behind the project truly serves to underline its importance. It is particularly noteworthy that each and every one of these distinguished public servants has connections to the military or veterans causes."

Additionally, the Foundation announced today that Secretary Coffman has been named an Honorary Chairperson of the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation.

"It is an honor to be a part of this worthy project," Secretary Coffman said. "As a combat veteran, I know how important this memorial will be to veterans and their families. This memorial will serve as a reminder of the sacrifices our men and women in uniform make to protect our freedoms."

Prior to his recent election, Secretary Coffman served two terms as Colorado's State Treasurer and served in both the Colorado State Senate and State House.

Before his service as an elected official, Secretary Coffman served with distinction in both the U.S. Army and the U.S. Marine Corps. During Operation Desert Storm in 1990, he took an unpaid leave of absence from the State Legislature to return to active duty as an infantry officer. Fifteen years later, Secretary Coffman once again returned to active duty, taking unpaid leave from Treasury in 2005 to serve as a Marine Corps civil affairs officer in Iraq, helping the Iraqis with two nationwide elections in the emerging democracy.

Secretary Coffman has a proud history of service to this nation and the Foundation is pleased to have him as an Honorary Chairperson.

Thornton Veterans Memorial Representatives with the Legislative Steering Committee



Left to Right: Stan Cooper, Tony Hake, Martin Wisniewski, Terry Cooper, Lois Tochtrop, Ed Casso, John Soper, Mike Coffman, Randy Bishop. Not pictured: Judy Solano.

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>.