



*To honor those who have sacrificed for us all*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**National Guard “Patriot Chopper” to Appear at Traveling Vietnam Memorial Wall Event**  
*Motorcycle Built by Discovery Channel’s Famous “American Choppers” Crew*

THORNTON, Colorado – The National Guard and the Thornton Veterans Memorial Foundation are proud to announce that the “Patriot Chopper” will be on site at the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall event. The event will draw thousands of visitors, many of them veterans, and the National Guard will be showcasing this extraordinary motorcycle as part of its public outreach efforts.

The construction of the bike, which was unveiled in September 2007 at the Army National Guard Readiness Center in Arlington, Va., was documented on the show “American Chopper.” Built using designs submitted by soldiers, the Patriot Chopper is the first of three motorcycles being built for the Guard by Orange County Choppers.



Metal worker Paul Teutul and his son, Paul Jr., founded Orange County Choppers in 1999. They became famous when their show “American Chopper” aired on the Discovery Channel in 2002. Early last year, soldiers were invited to submit ideas for the Guard-sponsored bike. The bike is red, white and blue and also features the Army Combat Uniform pattern. There also is a list of every U.S. war and conflict involving the Guard. The Patriot Chopper and the other two Guard bikes are used for recruiting and to promote motorcycle safety.

Of all the war memorials, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial - *the Wall* - arguably invokes the strongest emotional reaction of any and it is the single most visited memorial in the country. The Foundation, working in conjunction with the city of Thornton, has arranged to bring a 3/5 scale version of the memorial to the city from July 3 to July 7, 2008. The Wall will be available for public viewing 24 hours a day on those dates at the multipurpose fields at the Margaret W. Carpenter Recreation Center (11151 Colorado Boulevard, Thornton, CO 80233).



**The Vietnam Traveling Memorial  
Wall Will Be Coming to Thornton,  
July 3 – 7, 2008**

*Photo courtesy Welsh Photography*

## About the National Guard

The National Guard, the oldest component of the Armed Forces of the United States and one of the nation's longest-enduring institutions, celebrated its 370th birthday on December 13, 2006. The National Guard traces its history back to the earliest English colonies in North America. Responsible for their own defense, the colonists drew on English military tradition and organized their able-bodied male citizens into militias.



Since that time, the National Guard has seen the nature of its Federal mission change, with more frequent call ups in response to crises in Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, and the skies over Iraq. Most recently, following the attacks of September 11, 2001, more than 50,000 Guardmembers were called up by both their States and the Federal government to provide security at home and combat terrorism abroad. In the largest and swiftest response to a domestic disaster in history, the Guard deployed more than 50,000 troops in support of the Gulf States following Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Today, tens of thousands of Guardmembers are serving in harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan, as the National Guard continues its historic dual mission, providing to the states units trained and equipped to protect life and property, while providing to the nation units trained, equipped and ready to defend the United States and its interests, all over the globe.

You can learn more about the National Guard on their website at <http://www.ngb.army.mil/>.

## 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 108<sup>th</sup> 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>.