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## **Five Star District honors veterans in naming of new aquatic center**

*Adams 12 Five Star Schools Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center scheduled to open August 2010*

Superintendent Chris Gdowski announced today the district's new aquatic center will be named Adams 12 Five Star Schools Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center. The 50-meter Olympic-size swimming pool with seating for 800 spectators is scheduled to open in August 2010. The district broke ground on the project in June 2009, and it's located near 136th Ave. and Holly St. in Thornton.

"So many graduates of the Five Star District have served our country, and this is an opportunity for us to honor the sacrifices they've made to defend our freedoms," said Mark Clark, board of education vice president.

When completed, the Adams 12 Five Star Schools Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center is expected to draw not only local competitions, but state and regional events as well.

"Those who visit the Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center will learn about the positive impact our graduates and veterans have made on the well-being of this great country," said Dr. Darwin Strickland, board of education secretary.

The solar-heated pool is 50 meters long by 25 yards wide which can accommodate 10 lanes in the long direction and 24 lanes in the short direction. Floating bulkheads allow for the pool to be separated into areas for swimming, diving and practicing. The competition section of the pool is 7 feet deep which is ideal for fast times. The diving well has two 1-meter boards and one 3-meter board, and is 13 feet deep.

The aquatic center project also marks one of the more innovative city/school district partnerships in the area. As a partner on the project, the City of Thornton is providing the land to the district for free, in addition to agreeing to maintain the landscaping around the facility. The district will be responsible for maintaining the aquatic center building and parking lot.

Adams 12 Five Star Schools serves more than 40,000 students in Broomfield, Federal Heights, Northglenn, Thornton and Westminster. It's the fifth largest school district in Colorado.