



# Veterans Memorial



## ***Project Vision:***

The community of Kearney and the surrounding area holds a rich history of service and sacrifice for our nation. This memorial is designed to honor all men and women who have served our country in the military. Now is our time to reflect and remember those who so courageously committed themselves to defending our freedom.

Together, American Legion Post 52 and the Board of Directors for the Veterans Memorial at Kearney propose to develop a powerful and inspiring veterans memorial. This memorial will commemorate all conflicts since the inception of the Kearney area.

It is envisioned this memorial will be a destination for reflection, not only by area residents, but for travelers and students of all ages. It will provide a powerful opportunity to educate about each branch of service and the conflicts endured throughout our nation's history.

## ***Project Description:***

The design of the memorial includes a walkway that will be lined on both sides with seven columns that will denote each branch of service (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, Merchant Marine, and National Guard). Those seven columns will also provide a brief history of each branch of service. One additional column will provide the definition of a Veteran and recognize Prisoners of War and Missing in Action (POW/MIA).

The interior of the memorial will be circular in design, and lined clockwise with columns denoting each conflict since the inception of the Kearney area beginning with the Civil War. The columns will also detail the history of each conflict and the total number of casualties. The conflicts included will be the Civil War, Pawnee Scouts, Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, Grenada, Panama, The Gulf War, The Cold War, Afghanistan, and Iraq. An open walled gazebo will also be included within the interior of the memorial.

Beautiful landscaping will surround the memorial with trees, annuals, and biannuals. It will be encircled with a wrought iron and stone exterior fence.

## ***Project Details:***

This powerful and important veterans memorial will leave a lasting impression on our area now, and far into the future. As confident as we are in our mission and vision, we know we cannot do it alone. This project will be funded by private and corporate donations as well as \$500,000 from the City of Kearney. It is estimated the project will cost \$1.5 million to complete, which does include a fund for its ongoing maintenance.

Through a gracious and generous gift the City of Kearney has donated the land for the project, and offered to care for the grounds of the memorial once completed. Also the Veterans Memorial at Kearney is now affiliated with the Kearney Area Community Foundation for its funds management and non-profit affiliation.

It is time to honor those who have served before us, served with us, and will serve our nation in the future. It is time for a meaningful place to remember. It is time for the Veterans Memorial at Kearney.